

Aurora vs. Highland football: Hornets roll to 4-0 start

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By

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MEDINA, Ohio — The undefeated Highland Hornets once again proved they're a team to watch for in November as they got the best of the Aurora Greenmen on Friday in a 41-7 blowout win.

In the Hornet's victory, senior running back Casey Myser rushed for two touchdowns for a total of 91 yards on 14 carries.

The Greenmen defense could do nothing to stop their Suburban League rival as the Hornets (4-0, ranked eight in the cleveland.com Top 25) bulldozed their way to a 28-0 lead by the half. A 4-yard rushing touchdown by Myser with 18 seconds left in the second quarter permanently cemented the Hornets lead.

Along with Myser, senior quarterback Grady Gibb contributed to the victory with a 36-yard touchdown pass to junior Jake Webber at the beginning of the second quarter and a 63-yard touchdown pass to Nick Dobkowski two minutes into the third. Both Myser and Gibb helped set the tone early.

"He allows so many opportunities for us, and he's just a star player by himself," Gibb said about Myser, "It was a big win, [we] just [have to] keep getting momentum."

The Hornets started out the first half strong, scoring two touchdowns in the last four minutes of the first quarter. The first was a 1-yard rushing touchdown with 4:05 left in the quarter by Gibb, who ran for a total of 65 yards on 11 carries. The next, only two minutes later, was on a 7-yard rushing touchdown by Myser.

On the other side of the ball, the Hornets defense kept the Greenmen from a first down and held them to negative yards until midway through the second quarter.

"[I'm] proud of the guys, the way they came out and competed," said Highland coach Mike Gibbons. "Happy to be 4-0 at this point, but we're still trying to get better every single week."

Though the game had been thoroughly decided midway through the third quarter when both teams emptied their benches, both Highland and Aurora were able to get one more touchdown each before the game was over.

Highland brought their lead up to 41-0 with an 11-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Jonathan Prucha to wide receiver Ben Radigan. Aurora finally got on the board with less than three minutes left on a 10-yard pass from second-string quarterback Marc McGovern to tight end Drew Scott.

This game marks the end of a conference rivalry between the two Suburban League teams, as next season the Hornets will be switching to the National Conference while the Greenmen will be staying in the American Conference.

Next week, the 1-3 Greenmen will hope to get back on track as they face the undefeated Revere Minutemen. With a young roster built mostly around first-time starters, Aurora is going to try its best to turn the season around.

“Obviously it’s been a rough start to the season,” said junior starting quarterback Ryan Ziegler, who against a tough Highland defense was only able to throw for 9 yards on three attempts with one interception. “I fully ... believe that we can bounce back and become the team that ... we know we can be.”

Next week, the Hornets will visit 3-1 Copley.