

# CAVALIER Football Weekly



2012 Issue 14

November 26, 2012

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## Cavaliers Will 'Play 60'

Each year the Coldwater Cavalier senior football players pick a motto or mission statement before the season begins. It's purpose is to remind, motivate and inspire.

After last season's defeat in the state title game the mission statement was quickly determined - "Play 60".

It is a rebranding of sorts based upon an NFL advertising program. For the Cavs it served as goal to reach the state title game again in 2012 which would be the 60th football game the senior class would participate in. It is also a mark that no other football team in the state of Ohio has been able to achieve.

Until now.

In the Division 5 State Semifinal game at Lima Stadium, Coldwater (14-0) completely dominated the Liberty Benton Eagles (12-2) by a score of 38-0 and achieved their goal to "Play 60".

On this night the Cavaliers put together every facet of their game and dominated a team that on paper was every bit their equal. The offensive attack was balanced gaining 342 yards, 131 on the ground and 211 through the air. The defense was lights out again yielding 179 yards to a team which averaged 403 yards per game and shut down a running game that averaged 259 yards per game to just 150.

Eagles coach Tim Nichols was very complimentary of the Cavaliers saying, "That's real good stuff right there. There are no weaknesses, and they expose anything you may have that is weak. They are the bar for a lot of programs.

Coldwater scored on their second possession of the game, capitalizing on a Brody Hoying 39-yard punt return with a 32 yard field goal by Kyle Bergman with 2:43 to play in the first quarter.

The Cavaliers then scored on all three of their second quarter possessions. Austin Bruns passed for 17 and ran for 23 yards including the final three yards to cap a 62 yards drive in 11 plays. On their next drive Bruns found Caleb Siefring from 13 yards out to finish an 8 play 63 yard drive.

Then the Eagles, feeling they needed a big play to turn the tide, gambled on fourth down and Zach Dickman tackled the quarterback behind the line of scrimmage at the LB 37 yard line. Bruns made quick work of it as he found Josh Huber on a 30 yard pass to the seven and from there Bruns covered the last 7 yards on the ground. Coldwater led at half time 24-0.

In the third quarter Burns found Huber again for a 32 yard touchdown pass and midway through the fourth, Grant Muhlenkamp scored his first touchdown of the year on a 2 yard run to close out the scoring.

Bruns finished the night nearly perfect, going 15 of 18 passing for 211 yards and two scores. He completed his last 12 passes for a total of 153 yards and two scores. He added another 70 on the ground.

Muhlenkamp had 29 yards on 3 carries and Brody Hoying added 23 more on 4 carries. Siefring led the receivers with 67 yards on 5 catches while Huber totaled 62 yards on 2 receptions.

The defense allowed just 72 yards in the first half and 107 yards in the second half. LB only got into Coldwater territory twice all evening, and not very far. They got to the Coldwater 41 on their first series in the third quarter before a fumble ended the drive. Late in the game the Coldwater reserves allowed the Eagles to advance 53 yards to the Coldwater 23 before forcing a turnover on downs to preserve the shutout.

The shutout is the sixth for the Cavaliers this season and their second straight in the playoffs. The 2005 state champion team led by Ross Homan was the last squad to post 6 shutouts.

So "Play 60" has been achieved and given birth to a new motto, good for one week only, "Win 60".

### The Division 5 Championship Game

The Cavaliers opponent will be the team that vanquished them in last years final. The Kirtland Hornets (14-0) defeated Liberty Union 41-7 to force the rematch.

Last season Kirtland won 28-7 in a game that saw them log 421 yards rushing against a defense that was pretty banged up after a 14 game campaign.

Not much has changed for the Hornets this season as they have piled up 5280 yards on the ground at a 9.5 yards per carry average. With efficiency like that they have only had to go to the air 144 times, completing 69 passes for 1230 yards. So the Cavalier defense which has allowed only 106 rushing yards rushing this season will face a hardy test.

### The Quest for Number 100

The MAC is widely hailed as the best small school conference in the state of Ohio and has been acclaimed across the entire nation.

That success continues at the OHSAA State Football Championships this weekend as Marion Local and Coldwater play for state titles.

It will be a milestone for the MAC if either team can achieve victory as it will be the 100th state title for an MAC school. Best wishes to the Flyers as they get the first chance at it on Friday morning.