



Cavaliers Tame Aggressive Tigers Squad 41-22

The Coldwater Cavaliers continued their march toward a fourth consecutive state title game with a hard fought victory over the previously unbeaten Tigers of West Liberty Salem at Alexander Stadium in Piqua by a final score of 41-22.

The game was more competitive than the final score would indicate. The Tigers were worth every bit of their 11-0 record as they battled tooth and nail for 48 minutes but could not overcome the talent and depth of the Cavaliers.

West Liberty won the coin toss and choose to receive the opening kickoff and test their metal against Coldwater's vaunted defense. But they were forced to punt and the offense led by MAC Offensive Player of the Year Austin Bruns went to work, scoring on their first two possessions. The first score was an 8 play drive that covered 43 yards as Bruns plunged in from the 4 yard line. The second drive was a 9 play 66 yard drive capped off again by Bruns 2 yard run. Coldwater led 14-0 and it was looking like the game would follow the script of most of the Cavaliers games this season.

But you can never look past a team in the playoffs and for a moment, the defense let their guard down. On the second play of West Liberty's next possession Travis Mayse took an option pitch off the right edge and raced untouched 82 yards to bring the Tigers back to within a touchdown at 14-7. It was the first time a team scored in the first quarter on the Cavs since week 1 versus Kenton. That play seemed to wake up the Tigers who until that point appeared to be awestruck by the Cavaliers. For the rest of the night the Tigers played with an urgency that forced Coldwater to up their intensity.

The teams traded possessions until late in the second quarter when MAC

Defensive Player of the Year Zach Dickman broke through the middle of the Tiger front to block and recover a punt at the Tiger's 29 yard line. Then with just 41 seconds remaining in the first half Bruns found Mitch Schoenherr in the front left corner of the end zone for a score and the Cavs went to the locker room leading 21-7.

Coldwater increase their lead in the third quarter as Jordan Chapin scored from 2 yards out and Bruns scored his third TD of the night on a 9 yard leap and twist over the cone on the right front corner of the end zone to put the Cavs on top 35-7. Those two drives covered 177 yards in 17 plays and it appeared that Coldwater was wearing down the Tigers, but they still had some fight left.

Early in the fourth quarter the Tigers drive 72 yards in 10 plays and scored on a 12 yard run. Coldwater answered five minutes later as Mitch Feltz scored from 7 yards out to set the score at 41-14 and it appeared the issue was settled as both teams put in their reserves. But when the Tigers got the ball with a little over a minute to play Kameron Evans ran a sweep off the right side and just like their first score he ran untouched for a 60 yards. The Tigers ran the exact same play on the PAT and the final score was set at 41-22. This was the exact same score as the Kenton game and most would agree it was similarly competitive.

Austin Bruns showed leadership in a tough situation as he was 17 of 23 passing for 214 yards and one TD. He added another 91 yards on 19 carries and scored three more TDs. Jordan Chapin ran the ball 7 times for 71 yards and a TD. Brody Hoying led the receiving corps with 118 yards on 6 catches. Caleb Siefring added 79 more yards on 7 catches.

West Liberty piled up 325 yards of offense, the most since the Kenton

game. The fans can take solice in that 142 of those yards came on two plays which would reduce the total yardage to 183. But in the playoffs, games can turn on 1 or 2 plays, so the Cavs must prevent big plays the rest of the way.

West Liberty retires for the season at 11-1 and Coldwater moves to 12-0 and the Region 20 Championship against 12-0 Covington who defeated Cincinnati Summit Country Day (11-1) 58-14.

Coldwater defeated Covington last week in a week 11 matchup by a score of 31-7. The Cavs have won both their previous meetings with Covington.

Division V Playoff Results

Region 17

Kirtland	28
Columbiana Crestview	14
Youngstown Ursuline	44
Cuyahoga Heights	15

Region 18

Lima Central Catholic	17
Liberty Center	24
Hamler Patrick Henry	56
Columbia Station	16

Region 19

Lucasville Valley	21
Bucyrus Wynford	09
Oak Hill	21
Liberty Union	22

Region 20

Coldwater	41
West Liberty-Salem	22
Summit Country Day	14
Covington	58

How the other MAC Teams Fared

Marion Local	41
Minster	34
St Henry	40
Ada	34
Delphos St Johns	54
Fremont St Joe	21