

Upper Arlington wins season opener with ease

The football team now goes up against the Lions of Gahanna Friday night

By [BRIAN MCLEAN](#)

Nothing is certain in high school football, but it's close to a sure bet when Upper Arlington visits Gahanna Lincoln for a Week 2 contest at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, the two squads won't tally the 135 points racked up in Week 1.

The Golden Bears (1-0) are coming off a 70-0 thrashing of host Westland Friday, Aug. 24. The Golden Lions (1-0) had a similar result; they trounced visiting Mifflin 65-6.

Bears coach Mike Golden said his team will have to improve in every facet of the game to beat the Lions.



News photo by Brian McLean
Tommy Farwick (4) rushed for 208 yards and three touchdowns during the Bears' 70-0 win against visiting Westland Friday, Aug. 24.

"I think it will be a great game, but our challenge-of-the-week is to get better on both sides of the ball," he said. "We have to execute and do things exactly right because Gahanna has a good combination of size and speed.

"They have the capability of scoring at any time."

Defensively, UA's biggest challenge will be containing Darius Reeves, the Lions' 6-foot, 1-inch, 176-pound senior tailback.

Reeves rushed for over 1,600 yards and 13 touchdowns last season. Against Mifflin, he ran for 119 and scored three TDs.

Junior quarterback Blake Hickey threw for two touchdowns Friday.

"They're a fine running team, but they throw the ball better than I anticipated," Golden said. "(Hickey's) a fine player and he has a lot of weapons to throw at.

"Of course, for us, the best defense is the one that isn't on the field."

When the Bears have the ball, look for QB Braden Layer to attempt more than the three passes he tossed against the Cougars.

"We feel good about our (running) backs -- we need to get them heavily involved in the game -- but we'll definitely have to throw the ball more than we did Friday."

Arlington last played Gahanna in 2005, losing a 21-19 contest on the road.

The teams first played in 1927. The Bears lead the series 25-9.

Week 1

Ever since ex-Westland quarterback Kasey Wendal received his diploma in June, Golden was confident his team would win big in this year's opener.

Last year, Wendal led the Cougars to the playoffs for the first time. Westland played UA twice in '06 and both games were thrillers.

The Bears beat the Cougars 41-35 in the opener and beat them 28-21 in the playoffs.

Westland coach Jeff Jones resigned at the end of the school year and new coach Brian Smith was left with little time to put his system in place.

That being said, however, even Golden didn't envision the carnage that took place Friday.

"My heart goes out to Brian -- I know he's in a tough spot," Golden said. "But I can't tell my kids not to try.

"I never thought we'd score 70 points -- nor do I take any pride in doing so.

"I do take pleasure in seeing my kids succeed, but I understand what it feels like on the other side, too."

Here's what happened Friday:

If UA's offensive line was feeling the oppressive heat that nearly melted the turf, the big boys weren't giving it away.

The O-line of Kacy Yuhas, Travis Calkins, Charlie Williams, Josh Root, Brennan Kurfees and Co. mauled the Cougars from the first snap.

"When we mesh and play together on the line, it's one of the best feelings you can have playing football," Kurfees said. "When everyone's getting the line calls and we're helping the guy next to us -- that's a great feeling.

"I thought we were prepared for the heat. During our two-a-days it was ridiculously hot and we were practicing in full pads, so we're in pretty good shape."

Alex Drake scored on a 3-yard run early in the first quarter to start the scoring.

Less than four minutes later, Tommy Farwick took it to the house from 53-yards out.

Westland's dam broke in the second quarter when UA scored 35 points to take a 49-0 lead at intermission.

Farwick scored on runs of 18 and 30 yards. Defensive lineman Thomas Suter picked up a Cougars fumble and ran 10 yards for another score.

Mikel Berry, who was a force on the defensive line, took an offensive handoff and scored from 11 yards.

"I love to play defense, but I'd have to say I had more fun getting a chance to score a touchdown," Berry said. "I also thought it was great seeing all the sophomores get a chance to play in front of our home crowd

Reserve Ray Groves scored on a 5-yard run with two minutes remaining in the half.

In the second half, Gabe Krimm scored on an 11-yard run, Eric Krack ran for a 4-yard TD and Gerrit Hobson added a 3-yard score late in the fourth quarter.

Farwick rushed for 208 yards on eight carries and scored three TDs. Drake ran for 50 yards on seven attempts and a score.

The Bears totaled 376 rushing yards and nine TDs.

For the Cougars, it's back to the drawing board as they prepare for their home opener against Walnut Ridge (0-1) at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31.

"We had a core group of kids who showed a lot of mental toughness (Friday)," coach Brian Smith said. "It's easy to let bumps and bruises turn into something more when the game is getting away -- it takes a leader to continue to compete regardless of the score.

"For us, it's important that we get back to work and continue to compete against Walnut Ridge."