

## **Golden Bears take care of Cardinals with ease**

**By SCOTT MILES**

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Last year, Thomas Worthington's football team nearly upset rival Upper Arlington before falling in overtime.

This year, the Golden Bears didn't allow the Cardinals to come close.

Junior running back Alex Drake scored three times in the first quarter, and Upper Arlington stifled Worthington's spread offense to the tune of a 42-0 victory in Worthington Friday, Sept. 14.

"We ran into a buzz saw tonight, a superior football team to us," Cardinals coach Scott Gordon said. "They jumped on us pretty quickly, and teams that do what they do -- running the football out of the wing-T -- will just pound you if they get the lead."

"We kept our focus, came out and played hard," said Upper Arlington coach Mike Golden. "Despite this team's inexperience, they really focus and I really enjoy how they mentally approach games. They're hungry to play."

The Bears jumped out to a 6-0 lead three minutes into the ballgame after a swing pass to running back Tommy Farwick turned into a 66-yard gain, and Drake scored from 6 yards out on the next play. Drake then took a handoff up the middle for a 17-yard touchdown on UA's next possession, and tiptoed down the sideline for a 26-yard score late in the first quarter to give the Bears a 20-0 edge.

Drake credited his success to the team's dominance at the line of scrimmage, which consistently allowed him to reach the second level of defenders before being touched.

"Our linemen did a fantastic job," he said. "They opened up so many holes and they've been working really hard in practice all week. It made my life so much easier.

"As before, we've had success running the football, and we just continued to do what we've been doing all season."

"We have two kids (Farwick and Drake) who can make plays, big plays, and you need that balance," Golden said.

After another long carry by Drake -- this one for 29 yards as he started outside and cut back across the middle of the field - fullback Mikel Berry punched in a short-yardage touchdown in the second quarter. Later, UA quarterback Braden Layer's play-action pass found receiver Chris Cennamo running open behind the Cardinals' defense to push the score to 33-0 at halftime.

Upper Arlington rolled up 253 of its 387 yards of offense in the first half and limited the hosts to just 18 yards (minus-27 rushing) and four first downs in the game.

Overall, the Bears' defense forced four turnovers in the game, added three sacks and also recorded a safety late in the fourth quarter.

"We wanted to be able to run the ball out of the spread formation, but we just did not have very much success," Gordon said. "I think our guys competed well, even when they were down and out. We have a lot of things to work on and improve this week."

The Golden Bears, which improved to 4-0 on the season and entered the contest ranked No. 12 in the AP poll, will face off this week with sixth-ranked Hilliard Darby, a 39-38 victor over

Cincinnati Anderson.

The Cardinals dropped to 0-4 and will try to get back on track this week but have another tough matchup waiting as they travel to reigning state champ Hilliard Davidson.

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