

Running attack leads Bears past Findlay 42-7

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The Upper Arlington High School football team thrives on its rushing attack and Findlay almost has been helpless to stop the run, which meant that last Friday's matchup had the potential to be mismatch.

That's exactly what the contest turned out to be, as the host Golden Bears rolled to a 42-7 win over the Trojans to improve to 3-0.

UA, which employs a wing-T offense, amassed 434 total yards, including 359 on the ground. Findlay, which fell to 0-3, had entered the contest having allowed 902 yards rushing in its first two games.

"We just wanted to execute the running game because we knew Findlay was struggling against the run," UA coach Mike Golden said. "They were crowding up (on the line of scrimmage), but we still wanted to run the ball. We knew if we could get kids popped into the secondary that we'd have a chance to break plays. I thought we did a good job doing that."

Three UA running backs eclipsed the 100-yard mark. Tommy Farwick had 104 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries. Alex Drake had 110 yards on 11 carries. Isaac Wildermuth added 119 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries -- all in the second half.

The Bears had 10 running plays go for 10 yards or more, with their longest being a 41-yard run by Farwick.

"Obviously, in any game, you want to stop the run first," Findlay coach Mark Ritzler said. "That's the basis of football and we haven't done a good job of it. Upper Arlington is a good running team and they took it to us pretty good."

Findlay drove 79 yards on the game's opening possession, only to fumble on third-and-goal from the Bears' 1-yard line. The Bears recovered at the 3 and responded with a 97-yard, 10-play drive that culminated with a 9-yard touchdown run by Farwick.

"That's a real back-breaker," Golden said. "They look like they're going to score and then we go 97 yards for a touchdown."

Last game

UA 42, FINDLAY 7

Stars: Tommy Farwick, who rushed for 104 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries, and Alex Drake, who ran for 110 yards on 11 carries.

Key play: Findlay missed an opportunity to score first, as running back Matt Alexander fumbled on the Bears' 1-yard line on third-and-goal and linebacker Colin McClain recovered at the 3 to end the Trojans' 79-yard, 16-play drive on the game's opening possession.

Key stats: The Bears had 434 total yards, including 359 on the ground. ... The Trojans had four turnovers, including three fumbles.

Findlay had another costly turnover late in the first half when quarterback Eric Gilbert was intercepted by defensive back Anthony Finissi, who returned the ball 11 yards to the Trojans' 12. Three plays later, Farwick scored on a 1-yard run with 33 seconds left in the half and the Bears took a 21-0 lead into halftime.

"If we don't turn it over at the 1-yard line and don't turn the ball over in our own end late in the first half, we feel it would've been 14-7 at halftime," Ritzler said.

"Those were two very big plays. In the second half, they got on a roll on offense, and when they get things clicking, they're a tough team to beat."

FINDLAY 0 0 0 7 -- 7

UA 0 21 14 7 -- 42

UA--Farwick 9 run (Sylvester kick)

UA--Berry 3 run (Sylvester kick)

UA--Farwick 1 run (Sylvester kick)

UA--Layer 3 run (Sylvester kick)

UA--Farwick 5 run (Sylvester kick)

F--Davidson 20 run (Schaible kick)

UA--Wildermuth 5 run (Shroyer kick)