

## **Upper Arlington 42, Thomas Worthington 0**

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**By PATRICK DOLAN**

*ThisWeek Staff Writer*

The Upper Arlington High School football team continued its dominance over Thomas Worthington on Friday and did so in impressive fashion. The Golden Bears scored on their first four possessions and racked up 374 yards and their defense forced four turnovers, recorded three sacks, including one for a safety, and limited the host Cardinals to 16 total yards in a 42-0 victory. UA, which improved to 4-0, holds a 44-8-1 lead in the all-time series, which dates to 1926. The Cardinals, who dropped to 0-4, have lost all 11 meetings since the teams began playing annually in 1997.

"We ran into a buzzsaw," Cardinals coach Scott Gordon said. "We ran into a team that was just a superior football team to us, no question about it." Leading the way for UA was running back Alex Drake, who rushed for 92 yards and three touchdowns ‹ all in the first quarter ‹ on eight carries. He scored on runs of 6, 17 and 26 yards. Also scoring in the first half for the Bears, who led 33-0 at halftime, were fullback Mikel Berry on a 1-yard run and wide receiver Chris Cennamo on a 28-yard pass from Braden Layer. Berry's score was set up by a 29-yard run by Drake.

"They jumped on us pretty quickly," Gordon said. "Teams that do what they do ‹ their strength is running the football out of the wing-T ‹ when they get a lead on you, they're just going to run the ball and pound you. One of the things we wanted to do was try to get up on them quickly, but we weren't able to do that.

"Teams like that, you can't let them get ahead of you like that because they will wear you down, and that's what they were able to do." Running back Isaac Wildermuth scored on a 7-yard run in the third quarter to stretch the lead to 40-0 and the Bears concluded the scoring in the fourth quarter by sacking Cardinals quarterback Brett Hoffman in the end zone for a safety.

"This is a big rival and I guess they focused a lot of their season on beating us, so it was important for us to come out and show that we're a good team," Berry said. Hoffman completed nine of 22 passes for 46 yards and was intercepted twice. He also lost two fumbles, one of which was on a bad pitch to running back Nate Easley. The Cardinals had (minus)-30 yards rushing on 16 carries.

"We wanted to be able to run the ball out of the spread formation," Gordon said. "That was what we wanted to do, but we just did not have much success running the ball so we decided to go to a short passing game and make that our running game." UA was able to play many reserve players in the second half.

"It was a good, solid effort by every kid who got in," Bears coach Mike Golden said.