

Darby hands UA first loss

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ThisWeek Staff Writer

Jeremy Ebert may be known more for what he does with his legs than his arm, but the senior quarterback for the Hilliard Darby High School football team had his best passing game of the season last Friday against visiting Upper Arlington.

The Northwestern recruit, who entered the contest with more yards rushing (313) than passing (244), completed 15 of 20 passes for 165 yards and ran for 80 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries to lead the Panthers to a 22-7 non-league win over the Golden Bears.

Darby, ranked fourth in the Division I state poll, moved to 5-0 and UA dropped to 4-1.

"He's not average," UA coach Mike Golden said of Ebert's passing ability. "I mean, he hits (the receivers) right on the money. Some of the (receivers) were really well covered and he put (the passes) right on the money. That's to his credit.

"He is a difference-maker. He's a special high-school player. They're a fine team without him, but he's what's making them special."

Ebert completed passes to four receivers, including wide receiver Robbie Anzuini, who had seven receptions for 74 yards.

"Everyone always says it's the Ebert show," Darby coach Paul Jenne said.

"I mean, (the offense is) based on him making correct reads and there's a lot of pressure on him, but he did a great job throwing the ball and spreading it around."

Also for the Panthers, running back Jordan Richeson rushed for 109 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries.

Darby, which had 360 yards of total offense, scored on its first two possessions to take a 15-0 lead. Ebert scored the first touchdown on a 7-yard run, and Richeson scored the second on a 1-yard run.

The Panthers converted an impromptu two-point conversion attempt following Richeson's score, as the holder, Anzuini, ran for the conversion after bobbling the snap.

UA, which had just 177 total yards, cut its deficit to 15-7 early in the second quarter with a 1-yard touchdown run by running back Gabe Krimm. But Darby answered with a 83-yard, 14-play drive that culminated with a 1-yard touchdown run by Richeson and gave the Panthers a 22-7 lead late in the first half.



BY LORRIE CECIL/THISWEEK
UA's Mikel Berry closes puts pressure on Panthers' quarterback Jeremy Ebert last Friday.



BY LORRIE CECIL/THISWEEK
The Golden Bears' Cal Case disagrees with a pass interference call last Friday against Darby after Case and Adam Donahue broke up a pass intended for the Panthers' Robbie Anzuini.

Last game
HILLIARD DARBY 22, UA 7

Star: Panthers quarterback Jeremy Ebert, who completed 15 of 20 passes for 165 yards and rushed for 80 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries.

Key plays: Ebert completed a 15-yard pass to Robbie Anzuini on fourth-and-11 from the Bears' 33-yard line to help set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Jordan Richeson that gave the Panthers a 22-7 lead in the second quarter.

Key stats: The Panthers had 360 total yards and the Bears had 177.

The second half was a defensive struggle, as the Panthers had 95 yards and the Bears had 92. "(UA) made some adjustments (in the second half)," Ebert said. "They're well-coached, and they're going to make some adjustments but our defense stepped up, too, and I think what won it for us was our defense stepping up there at the end."

The contest marked only the second win for Darby in nine tries against UA. It also marked the first time in program history that the Panthers have opened a season with five victories.

"This is definitely huge for us," Panthers linebacker B.J. Machen said.

"We practiced hard all week and focused on our task, which was going 5-0 and making history, and we made history. We put it together and got it done as a team."

UA 0 7 0 0 -- 7

DARBY 15 7 0 0 -- 22

D--Ebert 7 run (Fabbro kick)

D--Richeson 1 run (Anzuini run)

UA--G. Krimm 1 run (Sylvester kick)

D--Richeson 1 run (Fabbro kick)