

## FOOTBALL

### 'Rocks, UA set for clash of styles

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The meeting between the host Dublin Coffman and Upper Arlington high school football teams Friday is sure to be entertaining, and not simply because both teams are among the *ThisWeek* Super 7 poll.

Sure, Coffman is 6-0 and has been ranked first all season and UA is 5-1 and is ranked seventh, but the distinct clash in offensive styles adds plenty of intrigue as well.

Coffman's fast-paced, pass-happy offense has been lighting up opposing defenses for most of the season and lighting up the scoreboard for almost 40 points a game, excluding Coffman's three defensive touchdowns.

UA, on the other hand, likely won't put the ball in the air 10 times Friday. Still, its offense, built around power running, has been nearly as effective, averaging 32 points.

"They are a running team. They only pretend to be a passing team," said Coffman coach Mark Crabtree, whose team beat Grove City 49-20 in its OCC-Buckeye Division opener last Friday. "That's just their philosophy. They're going to try to stymie you with good defense and run the ball and be real physical with you."

UA coach Mike Golden, whose team opened league play last Friday with a 14-6 win over Hilliard Davidson, said Coffman always has been able to utilize its skill position players and throw the ball, but he knows it isn't a one-dimensional team.

"They have great schemes for the kids they have," Golden said. "Lots of little slip screens, but they'll also try to go down the field because their quarterback can make all the throws. At the same time, knowing Mark and knowing his philosophy, they still want to run the ball quite a bit."



BY ANN TORMET/THISWEEK

**Upper Arlington's Tommy Farwick beats Hilliard Davidson's Chris Linderwell to the corner and heads upfield last Friday during their OCC-Buckeye Division game.**

UA won last year's meeting 24-14 on its way to finishing 10-2, but this is a virtually brand new team. Only two players who started on last year's team are back, but Golden said this year's group has grown up quickly.

UA has played three of the area's best teams in Gahanna (24-21 overtime win Aug. 31), Hilliard Darby (22-7 loss Sept. 21) and Davidson.

"Although we've got a lot of really talented kids in the program and they had done very well at the lower levels, you just never know until you get them on the varsity, under the lights," Golden said. "They've responded well. I think they were a little bit shaky against Darby in a big game, but here against Davidson, I was really proud of them."

The Golden Bears are running for 235 yards per game, and one of the returning starters from a year ago, junior Tommy Farwick, has carried much of the load. Farwick (6-foot, 195 pounds) has rushed for 611 yards and 10 touchdowns, averaging 7.5 yards per carry. Junior Alex Drake (5-10, 180) has given the Bears another option as he has rushed for 388 yards and five scores.

Senior quarterback Braden Layer hasn't put up gaudy numbers but has managed the game well, and the Golden Bears are averaging almost eight yards per attempt.

Senior Andrew Colosimo (6-5, 245), who has verbally committed to Akron, returns as a starter at tight end and has been starting at defensive end as well. Linebackers Mark Crawford, Mikel Berry and Anthony Finissi have been solid for a defense that is allowing just more than nine points per game.

Coffman's offense is largely dependent quarterback Zack Stoudt, who is asked to do much more than manage the game. Stoudt has thrown three times as many passes as Layer and is averaging 288 yards a game.

Senior Jake Stoneburner (6-4, 225) is one of the area's most physically imposing receivers, but he's flashed his speed as well, with three touchdowns of at least 55 yards.

Seniors Trey Fairchild and Neil Bittel also have been options for Stoudt. Fairchild, who also returns punts and kicks, has caught 19 passes for 437 yards, and Bittel has caught 25 for 311 yards.

Mike Adams (6-8, 330) has anchored an offensive line that has given Stoudt ample time to operate and has allowed just seven sacks in more than 160 pass plays. Behind that offensive line, tailback Jared Phillips (6-1, 191) has rushed for 622 yards and nine touchdowns.

Defensively, the Shamrocks were out of character last Friday against Grove City, allowing 262 yards on the ground. Crabtree said that after looking at the film, most of his concerns were alleviated, as all of the mistakes appear to be fixable. Nonetheless, he said run defense will certainly be a point of emphasis as his team prepares for one of the area's best running attacks.

"There's no question about that because what they're doing on offense is similar to Grove City," Crabtree said. "Not exactly the same, but similar. We want to make sure we correct most of the errors from the Grove City performance and do much better against Arlington."