

Warriors steamroll J-Hawks

Written by Mike Koolbeck

Saturday, 03 September 2011 00:06 - Last Updated Saturday, 10 September 2011 03:26

The play is 732 trap.

And Washington ran it again and again and again ... and again.

Washington rolled up 277 yards of rushing offense and steamrolled Jefferson, 35-6, in a Mississippi Valley Conference football game played at Kingston Stadium.

Washington senior fullback David Tann ran the ball 12 times for 133 yards and two touchdowns. Juniors Walter Short had 11 carries for 53 yards and a touchdown and Mitch Bredeson rushed 14 times for 77 yards.

"We wanted to keep it balanced and open up the passing attack, but the run was there so we stuck with it," said Tann, who scored on runs of 8 and 10 yards in the third quarter that boosted Washington's lead to 35-0.

But it was in the second quarter when Tann did his most damage, carrying the ball three straight times for runs of 11, 14 and 37 yards to put the ball at the Jefferson 6. Flynn Heald caught the first of his two touchdown passes from Braedon Tovey to make it 14-0 with 9:15 left in the half. Heald caught six passes for 73 yards.

"My linemen were creating big holes and opening it up," Tann said. "It was nice."

Seniors Sean Bredl, Storhm Henry, McCauley Todd and Tyler Burrell, and junior Zac Gillis were paving the way for the Warriors' running attack.

"They (Jefferson) were supposed to be big, but I think we were a lot faster," said Bredl, the left tackle. "We had more conditioning and better technique."

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Washington Coach Tony Lombardi said the Warriors (2-0) came into the game with the idea of using a balanced attack, like they did last week when they had 249 rushing and 253 passing yards in a 51-26 win at Prairie. But he said he wanted to probe Jefferson's 4-3 defense with the running game at the outset.

"They left seven in the box," Lombardi said of Jefferson's defense, that had seven men inside defending the run. "We were going to keep running the ball as long as they had seven men in the box.

"They were walking their linebackers outside on the edge and blitzing and leaving the middle open, so we were just going to keep taking advantage of that. I'm not a very fancy guy. We just try to take advantage of what the defense gives us, and that's what they gave us tonight."

Jefferson Coach Jim Womochil said the key to the game was the line play.

"Their offensive front dominated our defensive front," he said. "They ran 10 trap plays and we didn't have an answer for it.

"They're a good football team. They're going to be tough in any game. And defensively, they really brought the pressure."

Jefferson (0-2) had 25 carries for 91 yards, and 54 came on a run by senior quarterback Alex Baxter.

"We just want to play fast all the time and get to the ball," said Tann, who moved from outside linebacker to his customary safety spot for Friday's game. "Once we took away the run, we

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knew our secondary would be able to handle the pass."

Baxter completed 13 of 20 passes for 95 yards, but was under constant pressure. He also was the J-Hawks' leading rusher with 78 yards.

"We thought we came together and played good, but we would have liked to have had the shutout," said Bredl, the Warriors' middle linebacker. "We tried to shut them out two years in a row, but it didn't happen this year."

The Warriors beat the J-Hawks 49-0 last year, but this time around Jefferson scored on a 4th-and-1 run by Kyle Mann with 10:22 left in the game. It was a hard-fought yard.

"We were sending blitzers. We're coming after teams," Bredl said.

Washington was thought to be down after starting quarterback AJ Puk quit to play baseball and senior speedster Will Griffin had ankle surgery. But the Warriors have a pair of impressive wins and are feeling pretty good about themselves.

"We're short some players right now with injuries and ineligibility," Lombardi said. "I kind of wanted to see how our kids handled adversity and I think they've done well."

The Warriors have momentum heading into Friday's game against Kennedy (0-2) at Kingston Stadium.

"We weren't paying attention to what everybody else was saying," Tann said. "We just have to keep on working as a team and keep it going."

"We knew from the get-go that this team was going to come back hard," Bredl said. "We got a

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lot of seniors playing and we're just trying to win."

The loss was Jefferson's 15th straight dating back to the 2009 season.

"I think we still can be a good football team," Womochil said. "Everybody's going to talk about the streak and all that, but the bottom line is this team is 0-2. They didn't inherit any of those other things," Womochil said. "We got have to correct some things. I think there are a lot of teams in this league that we can compete with."

Jefferson had a couple of injuries to starters. Tailback Austin Short suffered a left hamstring injury, fullback/linebacker Tanner Lund twisted an ankle and defensive back Aaron Gruwell had a possible concussion.

The J-Hawks did get senior Taylor Olson on the field as a wide receiver for a few plays. Olson, a standout point guard on the basketball team, reported to the football team on Monday.

"We're excited about Taylor. He's a tremendous athlete," Womochil said. "He's one of our top athletic kids, but the problem is he hasn't played football since the eighth grade. There are situations where we can use him (and) we're excited about watching him develop. I think there are some things that Taylor is going to help us tremendously with."

Olson returned a kick for 12 yards.

Jefferson hosts Waterloo East ((0-2) on Thursday at Kingston Stadium.

WASHINGTON 35, JEFFERSON 6

Jefferson 0 0 0 6 - 6

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Washington 7 14 14 0 - 35

CRW - Walter Short 1 run (Michael Daugherty kick)

CRW - Flynn Heald 4 pass from Braedon Tovey (Daugherty kick)

CRW - Heald 14 pass from Tovey (Daugherty kick)

CRW - David Tann 8 run (Daugherty kick)

CRW - Tann 10 run (Daugherty kick)

CRJ - Kyle Mann 1 run (kick failed)

Team Stats

First downs -- CRJ 9, CRW 21

Rushes yards -- CRJ 25-91, CRW 40-277

Receiving yards -- CRJ 95, CRW 107

Comp-Att-Int -- CRJ 13-20-0, CRW 10-15-0

Punts-avg. -- CRJ 6-29.5, CRW 1-38

Fumbles-lost -- CRJ 1-0, CRW 1-0

Penalties-yards -- CRJ 8-58, CRW 10-97

Individual Stats

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Rushing -- CRJ: Alex Baxter 9-78, Kyle Mann 6-12, Austin Short 10-1; CRW: David Tann 12-133, Mitch Bredeson 14-77, Walter Short 11-52, JoJo McBride 1-8, Braedon Tovey 2-7.

Passing -- CRJ: Baxter 13-20-0-95; CRW: Tovey 10-15-0-107.

Receiving -- CRJ: Christian Knox 5-35, Austin Goodell 4-48, Short 2-5, Hunter Kloubec 1-4, Tanner Lund 1-3; CRW: Flynn Heald 6-73, Mitch Blades 3-30, Jason Oney 1-4.