

By Jason P. Skoda

CoachesAid.com Arizona Content Coordinator

AVONDALE – Anthony Hughes’ eye black said it all.

“Boo”

The Peoria Centennial senior terrorized Avondale Westview all game long in rushing for 285 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Coyotes to a 40-0 victory Friday in front a national television audience.

“Anthony Hughes brings a confidence that carries over to everyone else,” Centennial lineman and Oregon recruit Nick Rowland said. “I hope this game showcased his skills. He proved to me a long time ago he is a great player. I love blocking for him.”

And it appeared No. 6 Westview (6-3, 3-2) hated tackling the 5-foot-11, 200-pound Hughes. It’s no wonder.

His thighs are as thick as 14-pound Honey Baked Ham and his moves are as sweet as the famous ham’s outer crust. Hughes has a devastating stiff arm, sets up his blocks with the precision of a city planner and runs with a level desperation that can only be measured by the number of broken tackles left in his wake.

Like on the first play from scrimmage when he went 76 yards, seemingly effortlessly, for a score or on his third carry when he ripped off another long touchdown run, this time 66 yards.

In between was a Dain McFarland 35-yard scoring pass to Matt Baugh for a 20-0 halftime lead for Centennial, which is ranked No. 4 in the nation by USA Today.

Hughes has but one scholarship offer – Northern Arizona University – despite rushing for 1,384 yards and 23 touchdowns while getting 20 carries in a game only once all season. Over the last three weeks, Hughes has averaged 241 yards on 15.3 carries and scored 10 times.

“Anthony Hughes had a great game,” Centennial coach Richard Taylor said. “The offensive line had a great game. I am hoping someone saw him.”

Hughes was humble after the game, uttering the usual “for my team” spiel that Centennial players are trained to say, but there had to be a touch of sweetness behind this week’s performance just in case any of the 119 Division I football program recruiters happen to DVR the broadcast on ESPNU.

“I wasn’t saying give me the ball or anything, but I knew I had a chance,” Hughes said. “I wanted to score every time I touched the ball.”

See the full story at <http://www.coachesaid.com/Article/2009/10/31/Hughes-runs-Westview-scared>.

*Jason P. Skoda is the Arizona content coordinator for CoachesAid.com, a national Web site covering high school sports that features stories, rankings, blogs, schedules, video and audio reports.*