



Centennial vs. Red Mountain 10.22.10

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Still stinging from coming up short in a near last second win against Chandler last week, Red Mountain faced a very tall in order in trying to knock off Centennial on their home field on Friday night. A win was needed to keep playoff hopes alive for the Mountain Lions.

Mission accomplished.

Behind a huge effort from quarterback Aaron Eiseler, including a 44-yard scoring strike to EJ Cordova with just 46 seconds remaining, Red Mountain pulled off a 31-24 shocker in Peoria.

The win snapped a 37-game home winning streak for the Coyotes, who last lost at home on September 29, 2005 to Maryvale (35-21). It also put an end to the Coyotes' 35-game regular season winning streak that started after a loss to Hamilton by a 35-18 count on September 7, 2007.

"This was a great win for us against a great team but more important is that we kept our hopes alive for the playoffs," a very humble Eiseler said.

After Centennial quarterback Troy Hawthorne found Julien Singleton on a 5-yard TD with 2:21 left to play to tie the score at 24-24, Eiseler and company got to work.

On 2nd-and-6 from the Red Mountain 29-yard line, Eiseler (14 of 21 for 276 yards) found Jacob Tune for 20 yards to keep the pressure on the Coyotes.

Then, facing 3-and-2 from the Centennial 44-yard line three plays later, Eiseler found Cordova across the middle, who proceeded to work his way through traffic and then eventually free for the game winner.

"Red Mountain is a very good team. We didn't take care of the advantages we had. We just couldn't get rid of them," explained Coyotes' coach Rich Taylor.

A 33-yard Alex Kammayer field goal put Centennial on the board first at the 9:59 mark in the first quarter.

The Mountain Lions' Sheldon Carr tied the score at 3-3 with a 23-yard boot of his own with 2:02 to play in the opening quarter.

Then with just 18 seconds left in the opening stanza, Eiseler found Coleton Thornton (4 catches, 109 yards) from 24 yards out for a 10-3 Red Mountain lead. The 1-play drive was set up by a fumble recovery by Race Carpenter.

The Coyotes' wasted little time answering the bell when Hawthorne (12 of 26 for 226 yards, 5 carries 56 yards) found a wide open Singleton (3 catches, 87 yards) on 2nd-and-5 from the Centennial 25-yard line turned. The 75-yard scoring strike was one of three TD tosses by Hawthorne who started in place of the injured Justin Sanchez.

Eiseler used his feet to make the score 17-10 Red Mountain when the senior plunged in from one yard out with 6:19 remaining before halftime.

But like the earlier Mountain Lions' TD, this one was quickly answered with another long TD pass, this time a 70-yarder from Hawthorne to Gary Ross (4 catches, 108 yards).

The game would stay tied until Red Mountain's Connor Kranicz raced in around right end from the 5-yard line late in the third quarter, suddenly the visitors were leading yet again.

"We just didn't execute. We knew what they were going to do, we were ready for it and they did exactly what we expected but we just didn't do a very good job of executing," said Centennial safety Jesse Callahan.