



Centennial vs. Tolleson 10.1.10

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With much early season success, there is always the danger of a team falling into the trap of losing focus when a team you are expected to beat comes a calling.

Centennial faced this possibility when Tolleson came to town on Friday night.

But to the pleasure of coach Rich Taylor, the Coyotes were a well-focused, well-oiled machine which led to a 62-14 trouncing of the Wolverines in Peoria.

"We talked about (staying focused) all week to the kids. We tell them it is not about our opponent is about what you do as a team. No penalties, no turnovers, no mistakes," Taylor explained.

"I think tonight we played the way we needed to play and some kids really played well."

One of those players Taylor cited was Troy Hawthorne.

In a role as backup to starter Justin Sanchez, Hawthorne has not had much of an opportunity to demonstrate how deep the Coyotes are at the quarterback position.

That was until Friday night.

Against the Wolverines, the junior took advantage of extended playing time in a big way, connecting on 5 of 9 passing for 109 yards and two touchdowns in the first half, leading directly to a 42-0 halftime advantage.

"We were using this game as a chance to get better. I think personally I got much better. It felt good to go out there and do good. We did really good as a team," said Hawthorne.

After Vegas Johnson scored three rushing touchdowns in the games first 3:07, Centennial (5-0) was well on it's way to the win.

Johnson (10 carries, 104 yards) opened the game with a big 45-yard scamper down the right side, followed by a 7-yard TD run. Less than two minutes later, Johnson scored again, this time on a 2 yarder. When the senior went in from 12 yards out with 8:53 remaining in the first quarter for his 9th of the season, the Coyotes switched to an aerial attack.

First, Hawthorne found Gary Ross for an 11-yard scoring strike to up the score to 27-0 with 5 minutes plus still remaining in the second quarter.

But it was a drive in the second quarter that would highlight, just how much depth the team has.

A pass from Hawthorne to Tyler Beenau for 17 yards, was followed with a 42 yarder to Zach Hoffpauir and eventually a 25-yard TD to Joel McIntosh for a 35-0 lead.

Hawthorne, Beenau and McIntosh all come off the bench for the Coyotes.

"You can see just how little difference there is between Troy and Justin. Troy came in and did a great job, so did a lot of others that took advantage of more playing time," Taylor added.

Sanchez (5 of 7, 87 yards, 1 TD) was very effective in limited duty, finding Hayden Savocki for 7-yard TD pass seconds before halftime.

Second half TD runs by Jaylen Ortiz (35 yards), Tevin Ray (14 yards) and Justin Poindexter (7 yards) closed out the scoring for Centennial. The three were part of 7 different players that scored for the hosts.

For the sophomore Ortiz, it marked the fifth straight game that he has scored at least one touchdown, none shorter than 23 yards.

The Wolverines, outmatched for most of the game, never quit on one play. That effort led to a pair of touchdowns including an odd one on special teams.

After a Tolleson punt with about 10 minutes left in the third was fielded by Centennial's Gary Ross, a nice return by Ross was negated by an unbelievable strip of the ball and subsequent return of 50 yards by John Flowers.

A second touchdown on a pass from Tommy Warren to the junior Flowers, stopping any chance of a Centennial shutout