



## Centennial vs. Westview 10.29.10

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Any talk of Centennial being down and possibly out, likely disappeared after it's showing against West View Friday night.

Trailing 7-6 with 8:59 left in the first half, the Coyotes (8-1) went on a 21-0 run over the game's next 13 minutes to blow open the game with a 27-7 lead.

In the end, 3 TDs by sophomore sensation Jalen Ortiz proved to be more than the Knights could handle, as Centennial won 41-21 in Desert West region action in Peoria.

"After last week (loss to Red Mountain), we had to prove that we could come back and we did that," said Ortiz.

"I have to give credit to my line who blocked great and I did it for the seniors on senior night."

Whomever Ortiz (5 carries, 65 yards) was doing it for, he certainly showed a whole boatload of gratitude.

After a Vegas Johnson (10 carries, 58 yards) 2-yard scamper put the Coyotes up 7-0, Shayne Miller (11 carries, 55 yards) would cap a long 15-play, 89-yard drive (that consumed 6:54) with a 1-yard TD of his own for the aforementioned 7-6 West View lead.

Then Ortiz got loose.

First, a Gary Ross 30-yard punt return set up an eventual 2nd and 6 from the Knights' 29 yard line that. Ortiz burst around left end for the 13-7 Centennial lead with 4:32 left in the first half.

Ortiz would pick up where he left off in the third quarter, when the speedster scored from 36 yards out on the very first play after a Jesse Callahan interception.

The Coyotes' very next series saw quarterback Troy Hawthorne (5 of 8 for 96 yards) find Ross for 65 yards and a 27-7 lead.

"You can't win if you make turnovers and you can't win if you give up penalties against a good team," West View coach Jeff Bowen continued, "for whatever reason, it didn't go our way."

Miller would help the Knights (7-2) inch back closer when he scored his second TD of the game, this time on a 12-yard run, to shrink the Centennial lead to just 27-14.

But Ortiz's final act would be his best when he took the ensuing kickoff 98 yards for paydirt and a 34-14 lead. The run was 1-yard shy of the all-time Centennial record of 99 yards by Anthony Hall in 1996 when Ortiz was 1 year old.

A Tevin Ray 37-yard TD run up the gut for the Coyotes, and a 12-yard Jordan Champion run as time expired for the Knights, closed out the scoring.

"Vegas was the guy that pounded, pounded, pounded inside then Ortiz came in with fresh legs and finished it off," is how Centennial head coach Rich Taylor summarized his run game.