



Centennial vs. Chandler 9.3.10

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In a game that saw Centennial and Chandler combine for 999 of total offense, it was ironic that the game eventually was decided on a few key plays on defense.

After Chandler star quarterback Brett Hundley scored one a 1 yard plunge with 1:15 left in the contest, his team closed the score to just six points.

And then the ensuing kickoff was then recovered by Chandler, putting the huge crowd on the edge of their seats. Hundley and company then marched down to a first-and-goal situation from the Centennial 9 yard line.

But the Coyotes' defense tightened the screws on the Wolves' receivers, and turned up the pressure on Hundley, leaving the star quarterback and his teammates on the losing end of a 48-42 wild shootout in Peoria on Friday night.

"It was the No. 6 quarterback in the nation, with four shots from the nine yard line to win the game. If this was in Vegas, some people would have made a whole lot of money," Centennial head coach Richard Taylor said.

"We had 11 kids starting their first varsity game. A lot of them stepped up with the limited chances they got. It was a great game."

One of those breakout players that shined in his debut was sophomore running back Jalen Ortiz.

The lightning quick back made the most of his 4 carries (131 yards) in the game, turning two of them into touchdown runs of 81 and 37 yards in the second half, enabling his teammates to surge out to a 41-28 lead with just 8:24 left in the fourth quarter.

Ortiz's fellow back Vegas Johnson (19 carries, 97 yards, 2 touchdowns) added a pair of rushing touchdowns himself to stake his team to a 28-14 halftime lead. Not to be outdone, Centennial's Mr. Electric Gary Ross added further power to the Centennial offense, scoring three times, once on a 46 yard TD grab from Justin Sanchez in the first half and on a pair of runs of 50 yards and 15 yards.

Chandler's John Bishop (14 yard TD catch) and Aaron Mayo (52 yd TD run) accounted for their team's first half points.

With defenses for both teams being tested to the limit, it was the Coyotes that reached deep at the onset of the fourth quarter to come up with what was at the time a lead saving stop.

On 3rd-and-13 from the Chandler 47, Hundley found Mayo (6 carries, 92 yards, 2 TDs, 3 catches, 43 yards) over the middle for a 22 yard pass play down to the Centennial 20 yard line. At the end of the play, however, Centennial's Zach Hoffpauir stripped Mayo of the ball, enabling the Coyotes (1-0) to squelch what could have been the go ahead touchdown.

"This game we had a helluva opponent," Hundley said. "We made a lot of mistakes and it hurt, but we kept ourselves in a position to win the game and that is a positive to take away from the game."

The Wolves (1-1) did get contributions from several, including a 68-yard scoring strike from Hundley (14 of 34, 271 yards, 13 carries, 103 yards) to Javon Williams.

Sanchez did a great job of managing the Coyotes' offense, connecting on 10 of 14 passes for 155 and gaining 39 yards on the ground on 10 carries