



Centennial vs. Willow Canyon 9.10.10

By John Theriault
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After scoring 48 points in last week's season opening win over Chandler, Centennial knew their offense was clicking.

The 42 points scored by Chandler, however, was a different story altogether.

So in preparation for Willow Canyon's star back Garrick Shelton, the Coyotes knew that execution without the ball would have to greatly improve. And boy did it. The Coyotes allowed just 165 yards of total offense to the Wildcats, including just 33 yards (on 18 carries) to Shelton, as they pounded Willow Canyon 42-0 on Friday night in Surprise.

"We really got deep into our playbook this week and tonight. We didn't do a very good job (defensively) last week so we knew we had to get a lot better. I think we really stopped them good tonight," said Centennial linebacker Tevin Ray who highlighted the Coyotes' stellar defensive showing with a highlight play of his own.

Leading 14-0, with just over a minute remaining in the first half, Ray came up big on a 38 yard field goal attempt by Willow Canyon's Jordon Stangler. Ray broke through the line, blocked the kick and proceeded to race 70 yards the other way for what would be a 21-0 halftime lead.

The initial two scores of the half came courtesy of Vegas Johnson, his second game in a row with a pair of scores.

On the game's first drive, the big back plowed his way through the Wildcats line and eventually scored from a yard out at the 7:16 mark of the first quarter. His second TD was a 10-yard scamper late in the first quarter that gave his team a lead they would never relinquish.

"My job is to run the hard yards in the middle. I am just playing my part for the team," Johnson said who finished with 61 yards on 12 carries. "The fake is a big part of our offense too so I have no problem doing that."

Even though the passing game is the center piece of the Centennial offense, the fake's to Johnson and teammate Jebron Harrington (5 carries, 21 yards) softened up the Wildcats' defense enough to aid quarterback Justin Sanchez in the passing game. The junior Sanchez had yet another very effective passing game, completing 6 of 8 passes for 134 yards and two scores.

His first touchdown came with 4:01 left in the third quarter and the game well in hand for the Coyotes. Sanchez first found Gary Ross on the series' first play for 40 yards down the right side, followed immediately by another 40 yarder to Ross, this time down the left side for a touchdown.

After Willow Canyon's next possession ended after just three plays, Sanchez needed only one play, a 22 yard pass to Bryce Pearson, to up the score to 35-0. Sophomore speedster Jaylen Ortiz followed up his 2 touchdown performance against Chandler with a 50 yarder late in the game to close out the scoring.

Along with bottling up Shelton, who came into the game averaging 173 yards a game, the Coyotes were able to keep a dangerous Stangler in check at quarterback. The very athletic signal caller was just 4 of 13 for 56 yards, but did have a big 20 yarder to Andrew Perez.

The Coyotes (2-0) will now do battle with Brophy on Thursday, a game that is certain to be hard fought.

"We know we have a short week to get ready for a very good Brophy team. We just have to keep getting better on both sides of the ball and tonight we definitely went in the right direction," Ray added.