

Oct. 3 2009 Steinert football

First Steinert scores, then wins over Hopewell Valley

By Rich Fisher

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Oct. 3: Dan Danaso knows things will be better in school this week.

In the hallways, on the practice field, and every place else.

Steinert not only scored its first points, but won its first game in a 20-14 triumph over Hopewell Valley.

"Everybody starts to get down on us, 'You guys are this, you guys are that,'" Danaso said. "We showed people we can win and put points on the board. That was a big boost for us today."

Danaso returned to running back/receiver after playing some quarterback in last week's loss to Hightstown, and he promptly made his presence felt as a receiver by catching six passes for 94 yards and a touchdown.

Danaso played QB while Adam Riese was working himself back in the lineup after an injury, and Riese went the whole way against HoVal completing 10 of 14 passes for 85 yards.

"Adam did a great job today, he took over the offense today," Danaso. "I was glad to move back to running back. Ever since I was little I've always been running back/receiver. Honestly, me personally, I like playing running back because you have the ball in your hands a lot."

Doug Warrick was happy to have the ball in his hands in the first quarter, when he grabbed an 18-yard touchdown pass from Riese to produce a 7-0 lead and Steinert's first points of the season.

"Once we got that first drive and put points on the board our whole attitude changed," Danaso said. "We knew we could win and we knew we could score. It really was like a weight came off us. We had to break the ice and get that first point and move the ball. We put together a nice drive and finished it off."

Which is what the Spartans didn't do in last week's loss to Hightstown, as they moved the ball then turned it over.

"We shot ourselves in the foot last week," Danaso said.

Hopewell tied it in the second quarter before Danaso grabbed a 35-yard pass from Nick Maciolek on an option play. The Spartans tallied a necessary insurance TD in the fourth quarter when Judens Goimbert scored on a five-yard run.

HoVal scored again and had a late drive before Steinert's defense stiffened.

"Our defense held strong," Danaso said. "It got a little nerve wracking, everybody was real nervous at the end. But we held strong. The defense is the strong part of our team."

Offensively, Goimbert rushed for 76 yards and threw one pass good for 27, while Maciolek gained 24 yards on just two carries.

Defensively Steinert held Hopewell to just 89 rushing yards (236 overall) as the Spartans finally discovered life on the happy side of the score.

"It was great," Danaso said. "Starting the season 0-2 and especially not putting any points on the board was really discouraging to everybody. But, we got over it."