

Hamilton West football rebounds in style

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

OCT. 17: Maybe this week, Tom Hoglen can enjoy his social life a little more.

“We were out Thursday night to a party,” the Hamilton West football coach said. “I was grumpy and I told my wife ‘I’ve just got to get this bitter taste out of my mouth.’ It was good to get back on the field and get back to playing football.”

Amen to that.

Hamilton was coming off one of the toughest losses in school history, having blown a 35-7 lead to Nottingham and losing on the game’s last play.

But on a dreary, wet night in Hightstown, Hamilton showed no signs of a hangover Friday night, as it thumped the Rams, 26-12 with a solid all-around effort.

“Last week was a rough on the coaches, rough on the players, rough on the parents,” Hoglen said.

“They just wanted to play a game.

“But I don’t think it affected the kids. They came and worked hard in practice. They wanted to play a game and get back to the field. We all did.”

Once they did, the Hornets put on quite a show, as they outgained Hightstown 360-116, and limited the Rams to 11 yards of rushing.

Coming off a 200-yard effort against Nottingham, Jamie Williams outgained Hightstown by himself with 132 yards. More importantly, he did not fumble, after losing the ball twice a week earlier.

“He ran hard and didn’t fumble,” Hoglen said. “He carried a football around in school all week, nobody told him to do it, he did it by himself. He just wants to make himself better.”

Williams led an attack that rushed for 314 yards on 52 attempts. Michael Riehl ran for 77 yards, Kyle Williams picked up 62, including two touchdowns, and Jake D’Angelo added 45 yards and two TDs.

“We watched the weather forecast all week and it was saying it was gonna be nasty,” Hoglen said. “So that’s really what we concentrated on all week, was running the ball, and we averaged six yards a carry. You can’t argue with that.”

A Hightstown fumble gave Hamilton an early scoring opportunity. After taking two shots in the endzone Hamilton got a one-yard TD run by D’Angelo to get the Hornets rolling. Williams scored in the second quarter and after Hightstown made it 14-6, Julian Diaz forced a fumble that led to another Williams touchdown run.

“Our defense played outstanding,” Hoglen said. “Their one score came after a pass interference call on fourth and 11, but for 99 percent of the game we played outstanding.”

Hoglen cited Diaz and Markuah Kromah as having particularly solid games, and Umberto Dimeo was impressive during his first start at inside linebacker.

Offensively, Hoglen said “We spread the ball out, Kyle gave us some good carries and some good hard runs. Mike Riehl has been hampered a little by a lower leg injury, but we were able to establish him a little bit. Last night was the first night he felt good.”

In the end, they all felt good.

Good enough to party and not be grumpy.