



One of the keys to Steinert's victory over Trenton Saturday came at the end of the first half when the Spartans held the Tornadoes on fourth-and inches from the goal line. In the right photo, Patrick Charles (2) and Jonathan Pulley close in on the ball carrier, while in the photo at the left, Pat Ferrara comes in to help finish off the play and keep the scoreboard unchanged. See story below photos. (Photos by Dennis Symons Jr./To view other photos of this game log onto dennissymons.com).

Spartans top Trenton for fourth straight win

By Rich Fisher
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OCT. 24: It's often said the team with the hot hand gets the breaks and the team that's ice cold gets none.

Things ran along those lines at Trenton High today, when red-hot Steinert took a 7-6 win for their fourth straight victory.

The win came against former Spartan coach Carl Jordan, who is trying to get Trenton out of an 18-game losing streak. And when teams are losing, things that happened today, are what usually happens against teams that are winning.

Early in the fourth quarter, trailing 6-0, Steinert was the recipient of a roughing the passer call, which was followed by a personal foul on the Trenton bench. The 30 yards in penalties set up the Spartans touchdown, which was a 22-yard pass from Adam Rise to Nick Maciolek.

"(The officials) said something was said after the roughing the passer," said Jordan, who refused to use the penalties as an alibi.

"My hats off to Steinert," he said. "They played hard, they did what they had to do to stay in the game. "We shot ourselves in the foot with penalties. It didn't happen for us today and the reason for that is they played a great game. My hat's off to them."

Despite getting those penalties, Steinert still had to capitalize. Riese only completed two passes, but the one to Maciolek was as big as it gets.

"It's a flat route, he comes from the backfield and it's usually always open because they don't see him coming out there," Riese said. "When I turned around and saw him wide open I just tossed it to him and I knew he was getting in."

"It was a wobble so it was a fake toss," Maciolek said. "I came out of the backfield on a flat. My receiver Jordan Dunn did an amazing job blocking and I was just able to sneak into the corner of the endzone. I thought once Mr. (Brian) Baggaley made the extra point, that our defense could hold them."

Hold them, they did, getting two interceptions in the final eight minutes.

The first came from Tyler Smith after Trenton looked like it might start moving the ball.

"My coverage was on my other side of the field, but the quarterback was just staring down his number one on a slant so I just read his eyes and ran over there," Smith explained. "Nick (Maciolek) was there and in position so I just jumped the route because he could have made the tackle, and I just intercepted it."

With the rain coming down in sheets and the field a virtual mud pit, the interception looked huge since it would be tough to get any offense generated in the slick conditions. But Smith wasn't calling himself a hero just yet.

"After that, we had the momentum and everything but there was still eight minutes left in the game," he said. "We still had to play defense and get first downs on offense.

"After the last one though," he added with a smile, "It was over."

That one came from Maciolek with under a minute to play, sealing the deal for Steinert.

"This was huge," Maciolek said. "We're trying to get to the state playoffs. I think the last time might have been like 2003. My four years of being at Steinert we haven't won more than four games and we're at four games right now. It's just a team effort."

"I think it's a really big win," added Riese. "Coming here in these conditions and fighting all the way to the end is always great. And especially now, four wins in a row, it's just awesome."

It's something the Spartans felt was coming, even after an 0-2 start.

"From beginning of the season we had a lot of team unity and worked really hard," Riese said. "We felt this was the year we would be a lot better."

And they are better, despite going with a sophomore quarterback who is improving each week after returning from injury.

"We're trying not to give Adam too much," coach Dan Caruso said. "But he's always edging for more so I have to put more on his plate because he can handle it."

And with the way Steinert is playing defense, this is the right year to break in a ripe signal caller.

Steinert won this one despite getting just six first downs and 117 yards of total offense.

Not to be forgotten in the victory, was a goal line stand to end the first half in which Steinert held Trenton on fourth-and-inches.

Despite the fact the Tornadoes still managed a 6-0 lead in the third quarter, Caruso felt that stand was key.

"It was the difference in the game," the coach said. "For them to come away with no points before the half was huge for us."

Indeed, it kept them in the right position to make the breaks count when they got them.