

## D'Angelo, Pickett-Stokes relish new roles for Hamilton

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

**OCT. 9:** Hamilton West's football team needed a quarterback, so it lost a linebacker.

But it found another one real quick.

And the two parties in question came together for one big party last Saturday when quarterback Jake D'Angelo and linebacker Quincy Pickett-Stokes teamed up to help the Hornets beat West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

The two will be back in action Saturday when Nottingham visits Bill McEvoy Field for a Homecoming game that should be a doozy.

D'Angelo is coming off an effort in which he rushed for two touchdowns. On the first, he looked like a fullback as he rolled out to pass, then bulled his way into the endzone.

It was kind of like a linebacker mentality, which is not surprising since he played there the last two seasons.

"I played quarterback my freshman year but playing middle linebacker helped me out, made me tougher. It makes me want to run harder and come out and hit people," D'Angelo said. "Our offense is practically a running offense and they let me run the ball and I love it."

It's basically like hitting people on defense, only in reverse.

"Yeah, exactly," D'Angelo said with a laugh.

And with Jake moved to offense, Pickett-Stokes has stepped into his spot on defense and won the CVC 12<sup>th</sup> Man Club's Defensive Back of the Week after 12 tackles and one sack against West Windsor.

"To begin the season I never thought Quincy would be our inside linebacker, he'll be the first one to tell you that," coach Tom Hoglen said. "But he's worked hard and he showed us he wanted to be the middle linebacker on this football team.

"There were some guys probably ahead of him on the depth chart coming in. But his work ethic and just becoming a leader with Jordan Diaz, those guys were all over the field (against WWPS)."

As they walked off the field last Saturday, D'Angelo yelled over to Pickett-Stokes "way to set the tone on defense."

The linebacker relishes that role after years of watching.

"I came out this year and I knew the odds were against me," he said. "I knew I wasn't exactly on top of the depth chart but I had it in my mind that if I put forth the effort, put forth the work, I can earn the spot with hard work. That got me where I wanted to be.

"I put it in my mind, I knew this was my senior year, I wanted to go out with a bang so I decided over the summer I'd be in the weight room every day, work hard in the morning running and overall just working out with the team. It's a big adjustment, first time on varsity. I figured I had to turn it on and do what I could."

He's doing just that, while an ex-linebacker is making his presence felt as well.