

Oct. 23 JoJo's/Fish4Scores Athlete of the Week

Obado goes from one of his worst games to one of his best

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 23: Esayah Obado had 16 long days to think about his worst outing in high school football.

When those days were up, the Nottingham High senior quarterback responded with quite possibly his best performance since becoming a varsity quarterback, leading Nottingham to a 28-6 victory over Trenton Saturday.

Obado completed seven of 11 passes for 156 yards and three touchdowns, and also ran eight times for 81 yards and a touchdown. And he did it in a game the Northstars had to have to remain in the hunt for a state playoff berth.

For his effort, Obado is the *JoJo's/Fish4Scores Athlete of the Week* for the week ending Oct. 22.

“Statistically this was his best game of the year,” coach Jon Adams said. “Esayah is playing solid football. He didn’t have a great game against (West Windsor-Plainsboro) South, but I thought he played extremely well today.”

The South game was a nightmare for Obado and Nottingham, as the quarterback threw three interceptions in the Northstars 37-7 loss Oct. 6. Thanks to a bye, Obado couldn’t get the taste out of his mouth until Saturday.

He wasted little time showing he would atone, completing his first five passes, two of them for touchdowns.

“Esayah put a lot of heat on himself after that West Windsor game, but it wasn’t all his fault,” Adams said. “I told him it’s admirable that he’d take the heat, but there were a lot of other things that led into the game he had.”

On Saturday, Obado’s stats could have been more impressive were it not for a dropped touchdown pass. Then again, Adams said his numbers could be inflated were the ‘Stars to run a different system.

“He would have better stats if we had a spread offense and ran the ball,” the coach said. “But we don’t have the personnel to do that. Statistically maybe somebody might have more yards, but if you see some of the throws he makes, they are right on the dime.”

And when the situation calls for it, he knows when to run, which he proved against the Tornados with a 39-yard scoring jaunt to open the scoring.

“He dropped back, then tucked the ball and took off,” Adams said. “He had a chance to throw the ball, got a little pressure, saw a seam and took off.”

And he kept on going for the rest of the game.