

Oct. 6 Football: Tough day for the Northstars



West Windsor-Plainsboro's Chris Evans leaps in front of Nottingham receiver Luke Westerberg to make his sixth interception in the last three games. Evans then returned the ball 60 yards to the Northstars' 40 (Photo by Mary "Mom" Malone).

WWPS has too many weapons on both sides of ball for 'Stars to handle

By Rich Fisher
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Oct. 6: Esayah Obado made himself accountable, then made a promise to Nottingham High football followers.

“The biggest thing that hurts is I think I let my team down by throwing those interceptions,” said Obado after Nottingham dropped a 37-7 decision at West Windsor-Plainsboro South today.

“It won’t,” Obado added assuredly, “happen again though.”

The senior quarterback suffered through one of his toughest high school games, as the Pirates outstanding secondary swiped three passes. One was returned 70 yards for a touchdown and another was taken back 60 yards to set up a touchdown.

It was a bad day all the way around for Nottingham, which could only rush for 72 yards on 25 carries. The defense allowed 387 yards and allowed the Pirates to convert seven of 10 third down opportunities.

The whole thing left usually chatty head coach Jon Adams speechless.

“Momma always said if you have nuthin’ good to say, don’t say anything,” the Big Dawg said. “I think I’m gonna listen to mama today.”

Nottingham (3-2) fell victim to big plays on both sides of the ball all day. The first came on West Windsor’s first possession, when quarterback Chris Evans went 52 yards for a touchdown.

The Pirates second score, one of three Brian Schoenauer touchdown runs, was set up by a 38-yard completion on third-and-9.

The Northstars finally showed their own big-play ability when Obado found Ayoub Kamara with a 72-yard touchdown pass to cut the deficit to 13-7 with 2:14 left in the first half (Kamara had six catches for 137 yards).

It appeared Nottingham set the stage for a full scale war after intermission, but then disaster struck.

A missed tackle led to a 76-yard pass completion on West Windsor’s first play, and Schoenauer scored again two plays later.

The Northstars then moved to WWPS’ 49 before Schoenauer picked off Obado’s pass and roared 70 yards down the sideline to stun the Northstars and put the Pirates up 27-7 at halftime.

WWPS scored 14 points on three plays in a two-minute span.

It was the kind of sequence that can take the heart out of a team.

“I think it kind of did,” Obado said. “But we came out pumped up, and then they had a couple big plays in the second half that took everything out of us.”



Tevin Williams (32) forces a West Windsor fumble late in today's game, but the ball would end of rolling out of bounds. It was that kind of day for the 'Stars. Gerald Peabody pursues the play (Photo by Mary Malone).

Nottingham made one last push to get back in it on its first possession, moving to the Pirates 4-yard-line. But on fourth down, an errant pitch resulted in a nine-yard loss and West Windsor took over.

Later in the quarter Evans returned an interception at the goal line 60-yards to set up another Schoenauer touchdown run.

It was the sixth pick in three games for Evans, while Schoenauer has three in the last two games.

“That number one (Evans) is a great corner,” Obado said. “They disguise their coverages, they can confuse you a little bit. They’re a good secondary and they were switching from cover three to cover two.”

Pirates’ coach Todd Smith said stopping Obado was one of the main goals.

“We wanted to put pressure on him,” Smith said. “We know he does a lot of three-step drops so we thought we could get some people on him in his face right away. “We disguise our coverages pretty well, like he said. You don’t know if we’re playing two or three or even man.”

And they did confuse Obado.

But listening to him afterward, he sounded like a guy who won’t get fooled again.