

Sep. 10 Football: Nottingham nips Steinert for Klockner supremacy



Nottingham's Ayoub Kamara streaks into the endzone to cap a 7-yard touchdown run, which proved to be the winning score in the Northstars' 21-20 victory over Steinert today. (Photos by Dennis Symons/purchase photos at dennissymons.com).

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Nottingham holds off Steinert in another thrilling Klockner Klash

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Sep. 10: It may not have the tradition of Hamilton-Steinert on Thanksgiving; or the oft-times bizarre circumstances of Hamilton-Nottingham, but the Steinert-Nottingham football rivalry certainly lends its own brand of special excitement to the township football showdowns.

The Klockner Klash featured another thriller today before Nottingham escaped with a 21-20 victory over the host Spartans in a Western Jersey Football League Valley Division game.

The contest came down to a missed extra point by Steinert and a slick escape move by Nottingham quarterback Esayah Obado.

"It was gonna be this kind of game we didn't expect anything else," Nottingham coach Jon "Big Dawg" Adams said. "We've been talking about it all week."

This was a tough ball game," Obado said. "Steinert's a great team, probably the second best in the league right now. It was a hard fought game, everybody played hard, everybody played together."

On the other sideline, Spartan coach Dan Caruso saw things a little different.



Nottingham's Wroway Williams tries to break free from A.J. Mostrangeli for extra yardage during today's township showdown at Steinert (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./purchase photos at [.dennissymons.com](http://dennissymons.com)).

“We blew a football game, simply put,” Caruso said.

It was a heart breaker for Steinert, as poor execution on a PAT proved costly.

The Spartans trailed 21-7 before battling back. Adam Riese, who was 15-23 for 255 yards, hit Jeff Mattonelli with an 11-yard touchdown pass to make it 21-14. Late in the fourth quarter, a 44-yard completion from Riese to Vanel Dossous set up Riese for a one-yard touchdown run on fourth down.

But the PAT exchange did not go smoothly and sophomore place kicker Bari Deptula, who banged home her first two with ease, didn't have much of a chance. Caruso made sure to defend his kicker afterward (see video).

With 3:10 left Steinert chose to kick it deep rather than go for an onside kick, and hope the defense would hold.

It seemed like that might work when Nottingham faced a third-and-6 from the 28. Obado dropped to pass, saw everything covered and sprinted to his left for a nine-yard gain. One play later Ayoub Kamera got another first down and Nottingham ran out the clock.

“He bailed the old coach out today with that third down play,” Adams said. “We called iso pass, they had it read, and he boots out the back side and picks up the first down and puts the game away.

“Up until that point I was sweating. It was a great job by the back side of our line because they caved it all inside and he got the first down and that was it. After that we just had to hold on to the ball and run the clock out.”

Nottingham's line did a stellar job all game, which Adams is counting on with veterans Matt Hedden and Zach Baker along with Aaron Comacho, Aaron Levinson and Mike Olmeda.

“Our offensive line is for real,” Adams said. “They really came to play today and we're gonna go as far as they take us.”

The line helped Nottingham to a fairly balanced offense as the Northstars rushed for 180 yards while Obado completed eight of 11 for 125. Bruising sophomore Wroway Williams led the ground game with 106 yards.

Larry Pittman had three catches for 52 yards and a touchdown and Kamara had a combined 61 rushing/receiving yards with a TD.

We do have a lot of weapons, they just have to learn to line up right,” said Obado, referring to several illegal motion penalties. “We spread it around, that's the idea. We have a lot of athletes, guys who work hard and play together. That's why everybody had the ball. We didn't single out one receiver or one running back we wanted to get the ball to.”

Conversely, Steinert threw for 255 yards but rushed for just 57. Much of that had to do with Nottingham's containment or Riese, who was unable to get outside much on the option. He finished with 21 yards on seven carries.

“The defense has to tighten up some things but I thought the defense played well,” Adams said. “Hey, that was Adam Riese out there, not just anybody.”

“That was incredible,” Williams said of the defense. “To stop a guy with that talent, it's very hard. But they did a good job.”

Nottingham wasted little time establishing its ground game – which is something that



Adam Riese (14) goes across the goal line with Steinert's third touchdown of the day, which brought the Spartans within 21-20 of Nottingham (Photo by Dennis Symons/purchase photos at dennissymons.com).

concerned Caruso entering the contest. After a completion on their first play from scrimmage, the Northstars reeled off seven straight running plays to set up a 19-yard TD pass to Pittman.

Steinert came back on its next possession as Riese completed five straight passes to five different receivers before Tyler Zandomenego scored on a one-yard run.

It remained tied until third quarter, when Nottingham got a slick six-yard TD pass from Abado to Robert Liedtka, and a 7-yard scoring run by Kamara.

Steinert then made it interesting before the 'Stars hung on.

Once again, the Spartans are in a hole, although they reached the playoffs in the previous two years after starting 0-2.

“Unfortunately we’re in this situation again,” Caruso said. “I guess we’re notoriously slow starters. Even this game we started slow. It’s something we gotta correct.”

Adams feels they will.

“That’s a good football team,” he said. “They’re going to win a lot of games this year.”

Which means the excitement should continue along the Klockner Korridor this fall, even when the two residents aren’t playing each other.

When they do knock heads, however, rest assured it’s exciting.