

# Canton gridgers rout Glenn, 63-13

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Talk about a blowout with a capital ‘B.’

The fans at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park were barely in their seats when Canton 5-7 junior running back Kendall Scott blew through Westland John Glenn’s defensive line, sprinting untouched for a 24-yard [touchdown](#).

That was just the start of Canton’s 63-13 onslaught in Friday’s KLAA South Division contest. The Rockets saw plenty of red in the stands (on Canton’s Homecoming Night) as well as on the field, thanks to the barrage of big-play [TDs](#).

“Our offensive line executed, our backs ran hard, we threw the ball, caught the ball well,” Canton head coach Tim Baechler said. “Offensively it was an awesome first half. And defensively we were much more physical.”

Some might wonder why any tweaking was required. The Chiefs, already ranked No. 7 in Division 1, improved to 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the KLAA South with the win.

Right from the start it was a night to forget for the Rockets, who dropped to 2-3 overall and 1-2 in the division.

“They’re a good [football](#) team and right now we’re not,” John Glenn head coach Tim Hardin said. “That’s it. I think our guys played hard, they have hearts. But we executed horribly and they executed perfectly.”

Canton outgained John Glenn 446-211 and only the play of senior running back Terrance James — 12 carries for 106 yards, including a 49-yard TD run — provided any kind of highlight for the Rockets. “He’s a tough kid, he plays hard,” Hardin said.

## STRONG FROM THE START

The outcome of the game was pretty much known by the end of the first quarter, when Canton busted out to a 28-0 lead.

An early spark was lit by Canton’s revamped defense. Baechler said he thought his defense was “getting pushed around too much, so we switched some things up this week.”

Changes included moving 6-4, 285-pound junior Cameron Dillard from [offensive tackle](#) to the defensive line.

Senior Zac Merillat moved from outside linebacker to inside linebacker and 6-4 senior [defensive end](#) John Chadwick took over at outside linebacker “and those changes made a huge difference.”

That defense forced a John Glenn fumble right out of the gate, with the pigskin scooped up by Chadwick at the Rockets’ 24-yard line.

On the first Canton snap of the night, Scott (206 all-purpose yards) zipped through the defense for his first of four TDs.

“The coach emphasized defense today,” Scott said. “He said if you get the stops, offense will take care of it. O-line did a great job blocking, (it) couldn’t have been any better.

“The backs hit the holes and we just took care of business today.”

Then following another John Glenn three-and-out, the Chiefs made it 13-0 when Merillat sliced through the defense for a 55-yard touchdown run.

Merillat rushed five times for 85 yards and added two other TDs in the half (on runs of 8 and 15 yards).

The beat went on as Canton’s hard-hitting senior defensive back Demetre Lopez intercepted a Jeff Kuhary pass.

Scott scored on the next play, this time scooting around right end for a 25-yard touchdown.

In the final minute of the quarter, Merillat capped off an 80-yards drive with his 8-yard TD run off right tackle. Following Scott’s two-point conversion run it was a 28-0 game.

#### ON TARGET

Setting up the score was a 38-yard pass from quarterback Kyle Adams (5-for-5, 168 yards, three TDs) to senior tight end Evan Rinke.

In the second quarter, the Adams-to-Scott connection worked to the tune of TD passes of 62 and 42 yards.

On the latter, with 2:11 to go in the half, southpaw Adams faked a handoff into the line, dropped back and fired a pass over the middle to the wide-open Scott.

There were no defenders anywhere near the speedster, who easily scored to give the Chiefs a 49-6 lead (James had scored on a 49-yard run the previous series for John Glenn).

“The pass up the middle,” Scott said. “That was a nice pass by Kyle, he threw it nice all game.”

Before the intermission, it was 56-6 after Adams threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to senior Kevin Buford.

During halftime, the Rockets listened to their coach try to put things in perspective.

“What I told them was this is a great game,” Hardin said. “All we can do is keep on playing football and enjoy playing it. Just try to enjoy it.”

Over in the Canton locker room, meanwhile, Baechler was getting his backups geared up to play the second half.

“It’s just excitement for the kids who haven’t been playing much to play a lot,” Baechler said. “Get your first-stringers out so they don’t get hurt. ... They get their shot, it’s nice for them.”

Canton scored a ninth time with junior quarterback Ryan Darish at the controls.

Darish scored on a 25-yard keeper, which followed an 8-yard run. (Following the TD with his seventh extra-point of the night was junior kicker Scott Piwovar.)

Baechler noted he had to convince Darish that he could run the play.

“I said, ‘You can run this play’ and so I walked him through it,” Baechler said. “And so he ran it twice in a row, he executed, the line blocked great on it and it worked out for him. I asked if he liked that play now and he said, ‘Oh yeah.’”