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Coach John Filiatraut was waiting for his Livonia Churchill football team to bust loose and show what they were capable of this season.

And it came Friday night as the host Chargers raised eyebrows around the state with a stunning 27-26 victory over state-ranked and previously unbeaten Canton.

The Chargers, who improved to 4-2 overall and 2-2 in the KLAA's South Division, overcame a 14-0 first-half deficit with 27 unanswered points and held on for the victory after a late Canton rally.

"We played our tails off, we played so hard," said Filiatraut, whose team gave up 422 yards in total offense. "We stopped them I believe on three fourth downs. I thought if we made them punt four or five times, we'd be able to score enough and have a chance to win the game."

Canton bolted out to a 14-0 advantage on Zac Merillat's 27-yard first-quarter run followed by Ryan Jones' 5-yard run with 8:50 left in the second quarter. (Scott Piwowar converted both extra points.)

Turnaround

Churchill then scored three times with less four minutes left in the half with Seth Suida hitting Charlie Yost on a 25-yard TD pass followed by an 8-yard TD toss to Jaylin Freeman (set up by Robert Foster's 50-yard [punt return](#)) to cut the deficit to 14-12. (The first Churchill PAT was blocked and the Chargers missed on the two-point conversion attempt.)

Canton's Kevin Buford fumbled the ensuing kickoff - recovered by Churchill's Stephen Bank - and with less than a minute left, the Chargers capitalized on Suida's 11-yard TD pass with Lamont Johnson with just five seconds remaining until intermission.

Suida's then connected with Foster for the two-pointer as the Chargers forged ahead 20-14.

On the first play of the second half, junior Romello Brown took off on 75-yard run and scored on a 4-yard TD with 10:38 to go in the third to make it 27-14 for the Chargers.

Canton then made its comeback.

Kendall Scott scored on a 16-yard TD run with 36 seconds to play in third, but Derek Jakubowski blocked the PAT to make it 27-20.

The Chiefs (5-1, 3-1) scored again with 7:32 to play in the final quarter on [quarterback](#) Kyle Adams' 24-yard run, but couldn't score the equalizer after a bad snap on the point-after resulting in a scramble for an incomplete pass.

Churchill's defense, led by Connor Dwyer and Yost (12 tackles each), held on fourth down at its own 44 with 4:45 left and held on for the victory.

Adams was Canton's leading rusher with 122 yards on 11 attempts, while Buford was 12-for-68 on the ground.