

# Hard-running Chiefs roll past Pats to sixth straight

## Franklin falls 56-7 after just three quarters

Oct. 6, 2013 |  Written by [Tim Smith](#) Staff Writer

Canton's explosive, big-play offense riddled Livonia Franklin Friday night to the tune of seven rushing touchdowns of at least 40 yards.

The Chiefs scored almost at will in a 56-7 KLAA South Division football victory that was called after three quarters due to a sudden rainstorm. With the win, Canton improved to 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the division, clinching a state playoff berth.

Canton head coach Tim Baechler and his Franklin counterpart, Chris Kelbert, decided to just call it a night at that point instead of waiting for the delay to subside.

"It was all on them," Chiefs junior running back Charles Turfe, said praising Canton's offensive line.

"Even at halftime, the coaches said the offensive line was leading us. I saw green. I could drive a truck through those holes."

Indeed. Turfe ran the ball only seven times, but he collected 221 yards in the process — not to mention scoring on runs of 43, 76 and 87 yards.

Also having a huge game for Canton was another senior tailback, Westen Price. He also scored three times, on through-the-line bursts of 55, 52 and 71 yards and tallied 183 yards in just five attempts.

Other Canton TDs were scored by senior Chase Winningham (on a 67-yard sprint) and junior Jake Pagel, who picked off a pass by Franklin quarterback Kyle Riley in the final minute of the first half and returned it 40 yards for the touchdown.

"They did a really good job. They were a little bit more physical than we were," Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert said. "They had a couple of different blocking schemes than they've used in the past that kind of surprised us a little bit."

In the first half, Canton scored on six of eight offensive possessions, piling up 385 yards on the ground.

"Those backs are pretty strong runners," Kelbert said about Canton's triple-back set of Turfe, Price and Winningham. "We didn't execute and that's what we told the kids at halftime."

“Canton executed perfectly and we didn’t. We missed tackles, missed blocking assignments. We just did a lot of things wrong and a lot of that was due to them being so good up front.”

### **Night to forget**

It was a night to forget for Franklin (3-3, 2-2), although the Patriots did manage to get on the board midway through the second quarter — after Canton already had a 28-0 edge.

Canton received great field position at Franklin’s 20 after the Patriots fumbled a kickoff, subsequently recovered by Nick Durocher for the Chiefs.

On the next snap, however, Canton junior quarterback Greg Williams made what probably was his only mistake of the contest. He hoisted a pass on first down that Franklin’s Charles Keith picked off near the 10-yard line.

Keith nearly went coast-to-coast, galloping 56 yards before being thrown down by a horse-collar tackle that tacked 15 yards onto the play.

The Patriots followed up three plays later, with Riley finding Dan Huber in the left flat for a 13-yard scoring strike with 4:28 remaining in the half.

In keeping with the night’s theme, however, Turfe broke off a 76-yard touchdown on Canton’s ensuing play and the rout continued.

Before the intermission, Canton had two more TDs and enough of a lead to start the second half with a running clock.

The only scoring in the abbreviated second half was on yet another Turfe run, just like his previous ones. He got up to the line of scrimmage, patiently waited for a seam to develop and hit it with authority.

Although the game really never was in doubt, Turfe said it was good for the Chiefs to take to heart pregame messages from Canton’s coaching staff.

“Coach Baechler said even though we’re 5-0, we were still making too many mistakes coming into this game,” Turfe said.

“He said 5-0 does not matter. He said we win this game we get the playoffs and it all starts up front. The offensive line did unreal today.”

Conversely, Kelbert will have to regroup his team for the final three games of the season with a playoff berth still the top priority.

“We just told them this can’t be the end of our season,” Kelbert said. “We put a lot of emphasis on this game and beating those guys and being one of the best teams in the state.

“Even though we didn’t reach our goal it’s not the end of the season. We still got three more games to play, we got a lot to accomplish.”

There was little for the Pats to hang their helmets on following the game. But they did receive some blue-collar running by junior Dan Huber, who ran 14 times for 71 yards. Adding 43 yards on the ground was senior Caleb Finamore.