Friday's high school roundup: Canton rushes for 333 yards in 34-23 victory over Plymouth

Blake Meakin

Canton — Whenever Canton and Plymouth meet on the football field, the fans are treated to an exciting game. This year's version was no different as undefeated Canton came in and ruined Plymouth's homecoming night, 34-23.

A big second half from sixth-ranked Canton (7-0) paved the way for the victory.

The Chiefs were up 20-14 at halftime, and held Plymouth to just nine second half points.

Perhaps the play of the game was Canton stopping Plymouth on fourth-and-inches in the fourth quarter.

"You have to keep the clock running against them and we didn't do that," Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk said.

That turnover on downs gave Canton the ball back. Canton scored on the ensuing drive to go ahead 34-17.

The game opened with a 24-yard touchdown run by Canton's Weston Price, but the extra point was blocked. Price finished the game with 77 rushing yards on 13 carries and one touchdown.

Plymouth's Cameron Stella ran the ensuing kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown and 7-6 lead. By the end of the first quarter, Plymouth (5-2) had yet to run a play on offense but led, 7-6.

With Canton ahead by six at halftime, Plymouth took the second-half kickoff and scored on a 42-yard field goal from Viet Nguyen to cut Canton's lead to 20-17.

"In order to beat them, we needed to drive down and get (a touchdown) and we didn't," Sawchuk said.

Meanwhile, Plymouth could not stop Canton's rushing attack. Canton rushed for 333 yards. Chuck Turfe carried much of the load, tallying 120 yards and two touchdowns.

He credited his offensive line for his performance.

"I could drive a truck through all those holes," Turfe said.

Late in the fourth quarter, Canton went for it on fourth-and-five near midfield and converted on a 30-yard pass play from Greg Williams to Jake Boucher.

"I didn't want to give them the ball back," Canton coach Tim Baechler said.

Canton scored a few plays later on Williams' 1-yard run.

D.J. Rossell had 19 carries for 84 yards and a touchdown and Matt Busch had three catches for 76 yards and a touchdown for Plymouth.

"Our defense made just enough stops," Baechler said.

After the game, Plymouth watched as Canton celebrated on its field during its homecoming night. The teams have met in the playoffs the last five years, with Canton holding a 3-2 edge.

Sawchuk made his players watch.

"I said 'remember that. How does that make you feel?' " he said.

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