

Canton blisters Northville, 48-7, in Division 1 football district semifinals



Brian Newton ran for 211 yards and four touchdowns as Canton beat Northville, 48-7. (Tom Barry | MLive.com) By Tom Barry | MLive.com

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10/31 - 7:00 PM Football	Final
Northville	7
Canton	48

Behind running back Brian Newton's four rushing touchdowns, **Canton** braved Friday's windy Halloween snowstorm to pick up a 48-7 home victory over **Northville** during the Division 1 football district semifinals.

Newton rushed 17 times and racked up 211 yards as the Chiefs ran the ball for all but two of its offensive plays because of the fierce wind.

"This is a great feeling," Newton said. "We knew we had to work hard to beat them and they defeated us last season, so it's a really good feeling to come back and beat them tonight."

Canton broke out to a 21-0 lead after the first quarter and started the running clock early in the fourth quarter to bury the interdivisional Kensington Lakes Activities Association foe Mustangs.

The Chiefs (8-2) will host KLAA South Division rival Livonia Churchill, a 38-14 winner Friday over Plymouth, in the district semifinals at a time and date to be determined.

Canton marched down the field during the first with a three-minute rushing drive to start the game and finished it off with Newton punching in a one-yard rushing touchdown for a 7-0 lead.

Northville (6-4) went three-and-out on its first drive and the ensuing punt traveled four yards after being knocked down in midair, allowing Canton running back Marcus Sanders to run 42 yards to the end zone on the second play of the drive to go up 14-0.

The Chiefs pieced together a long drive that ate up the clock and running back Charles Turfe raced in nine yards along the right sideline, extending Canton's lead to 21-0 with 1:16 remaining in the first period.

Thanks to offensive lineman and Wisconsin recruit David Moorman, Northville earned some momentum back with a prolonged extension and got on the scoreboard when quarterback Justin Zimbo threw a five-yard touchdown pass to tight end and Northern Illinois signee Ryan Roberts, cutting the deficit to 21-7 with 8:13 left in the first half.

In a span of 4:39 late in the second quarter, Canton sapped the energy away from the Mustangs with two more scoring drives as quarterback Greg Williams took a keeper 46 yards to the end zone and Newton running in from 11 yards out (the ensuing PAT attempt was missed), giving the Chiefs a 34-7 lead with just a minute to go before halftime.

During the first Canton drive of the fourth quarter, the Chiefs started the running clock when Newton was handed the ball with a 30-yard touchdown run and Williams scored on a two-point rushing attempt for a 42-7 advantage.

Newton took a midfield run 60 yards for his fourth rushing touchdown of the game, giving the Chiefs a 48-7 lead following a missed PAT try.

Sanders ran nine times for 121 yards and a touchdown for Canton.

"I think we finally came of-age on the offensive line," Canton head coach Timothy Baechler said. "We've been dealing with injuries and plugging guys in all year, but today, I think we showed what is the Canton offensive line. This weather, I believe, is what this team was meant to play in."

Zimbo added 102 yards of total offense to lead Northville.

"This has been a great group of kids," Northville head coach Matt Ladach said. "I am truly blessed to have worked with this group of kids. This class of players is part of why I love this job."