

# Friday's prep roundup: Canton runs over Salem

Canton 45, Salem 14



Canton running back Colin Troup (3) breaks to the outside against Salem during a 45-14 Canton victory Friday, Sept. 15, 2017 at Canton High School.



*Canton* — Connor Engel was masterful in running Canton's offense Friday night, leading his team to a 45-14 victory over rival Salem in a Kensington Lakes Activities Association Black Division game.

Canton (3-1, 2-0) was unstoppable in the first half with Engel running the full-house tight-T offense to near perfection.

Canton scored on all four first-half drives to take a 23-14 lead, but Salem did force a 28-yard field goal by Chase Meredith with three seconds left in the half.

Then, Canton stopped Salem to open the second half and scored on 64-yard drive, converting three third downs with Engel finding Danny Lanava for a 22-yard touchdown pass on a third-and-3 play for a 29-14 cushion.

"I have to give our O-line all the credit, they really stuck it to them," Engel said. "That first stop coming out of the second half, our defense really gave us a push (with the stop) and gave us confidence."

Engel completed his first five passes for 95 yards, including the touchdown pass to Lanava. His lone mistake was late in the third quarter when he was intercepted after Canton recovered a fumble at Salem's 48.

Canton piled up 322 yards on the ground and 417 overall, with Colin Troup rushing for 155 yards and two scores on 21 carries and Steven Walker rushing 16 times for 134 yards and three touchdowns.

Canton's defense was outstanding during the second half, shutting Salem out and holding it to 24 total yards with Meredith sacking quarterback Ryan Young twice. Aaron Garbarino recorded a safety in the final minutes.

"We had to pick it up in the second half because we felt they had better intensity than we did," Meredith said. "We knew we had to limit their offense so they couldn't score points. It was all about everyone playing their position, keeping the quarterback in the pocket and when he (Young) scrambled, he just came my way and I got him."

Canton set the tempo with a 55-yard drive on the game's first possession, with all the yards coming on the ground and Troup's 30-yard run setting up Walker's 10-yard touchdown run.

Salem (2-2, 2-1) had a chance to take the lead, but Young had one pass go through the hands of John Paul Dela Cruz near the Canton 15.

Young then overthrew Travell Hale on the next play and was sacked on third down to force a punt.

Then, Engel led Canton on an 89-yard drive, first keeping the drive alive when he found Troup for 16 yards on a third down play deep in their own territory. Walker took over from there, busting loose for a 44-yard gain to set up Troup's 1-yard score for a 12-0 cushion with 1:51 left in the quarter. "We came out with a lot of intensity, especially since it was a Park (Plymouth/Canton/Salem Educational Park campus) Game and I really think the team came together as a family," Troup said. "This is one of our best games we've ever played."

Salem showed its quick-strike ability when Young found Andrew Davis for a 63-yard touchdown pass on the final play of the first quarter to cut the deficit to 12-7 on a third-and-long play.

Canton answered, this time uncharacteristically through the air with Engel finding Noah Brown for pass plays of 33 and 36 yards to set up Troup's second 1-yard touchdown run for a 20-7 lead.

Salem put together its best drive — 73 yards on 13 plays — and took advantage of a pass interference penalty and offsides call on a fourth-and-1 from the 9 to set up Cody Tapp's 2-yard score with 1:45 left in the half.