

Local Voices



Connie Harbison

Jr. Raiders JV and Varsity Teams Defeat Watchung Hills Jr. Warriors

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Junior Varsity (Grades 5-6)

In their toughest battle to date, the Jr. Raiders JV team won a slugfest with the previously unbeaten Watchung Hills Jr. Warriors on Saturday, September 29th, at Watchung Hills High School. Watchung jumped out to an early 6-0 lead, but the Jr. Raiders finished the 1st half with a 13 play drive and powered it in for the score. The kicked extra point by Ryan Gemignani proved to be the difference in the game. The 2nd half saw the two teams stand toe-to-toe, trading blows. Neither team budged and the Jr. Raiders held on for the victory.

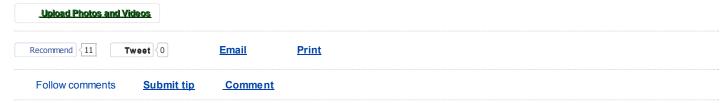
The Jr. Raiders were lead on offense by the running of Brian Reilly (42 yards) and Dylan Boczon (41 yards) and the timely scrambling of Matt Popaduik (33 yards). The stout defense was lead by a regiment of Raiders, including Jaden Bailey (5 tackles), Brian Reilly (4 tackles, 2 for loss, a Fumble Recovery, and a sack), Greg Koll (4 tackles, 2 for loss and a Forced Fumble) and Alex Marsh (4 tackles).

Final score was 8-6, Hillsborough. Offensive MVP for JV was Matt Popaduik; defensive MVP was Greg Koll.

Varsity (Grades 7-8)

In Varsity play, the Hillsborough Jr. Raiders met the Watchung Hills Jr. Warriors at Watchung Hills High School on September 29th. Jackson Parham got the scoring started returning the opening kickoff 75 yards to give the Jr. Raiders a lead they would never relinquish. Kyle Kauffman took a pitch 65 yards on the next series to make the score 12-0 as the first quarter came to an end. Joe Schultz hit Jeff Alboum on a 64 yard TD pass in the 2nd quarter to give Hillsborough a 18-0 lead at the half. Skyler Springs, who completed 4 of 7 passes for 39 yards, threw a 10 yard TD pass to Luke Yakely in the 3rd quarter to increase the lead to 24-0. The Hillsborough defense swarmed all evening and gave Watchung very little opportunity to score - never allowing their opponent to get within the 30 yard line. The defense was led by Jackson Parham who had 2 pass deflections and several tackles, Samari Springs (4 tackles), Brandon Nitchke (6), Nick Coira (4), Kyle Kauffman (4 tackles and 1 interception) and Brandon Moore.

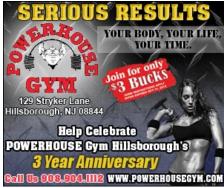
The final score was 24-0 and the Jr. Raider Varsity team remains undefeated with a 4-0 record. Game MVP was Jackson Parham.



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