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Dunwoody wins battle of undefeated teams

The Dunwoody Wildcats became the region 5-AAA champions for the first time since 1993 after defeating the St Pius Golden Lions 20-14 on Friday.

"I've played with some of these guys for six years," said senior Thomas Bell. "We've come together as a family, and its really starting to show. "

"I thought our kids played extremely hard and I am very proud of them," said St. Pius head coach Paul Standard. "They battled back and stuck together. If we had laid down after the first quarter, they would have killed us. We made too many mistakes to beat a good football team but we will get those fixed."

The Wildcats received the ball to start the game. On fourth and two, Dunwoody coach James Teter decided to take a risk, and go for it. It paid off when senior Treavor Scales burst 44 yards for a touchdown. The Wildcats had obtained an early 7-0 lead.

The Dunwoody defense allowed the Golden Lion offense three plays before forcing them to punt the ball. Pius got the ball back after senior Erick Cooper threw his second interception of the season. The Wildcats were able to strike back whe junior Dalen Claytor recovered a fumble from Pius fullback Cole Moon.

The Wildcat offense went down the field, with Scales blasting 28 yards into the end zone. The Wildcats had a 14-0 lead. The rest of the first half was a brutal back-and-forth affair, with both offenses unable to make much progress before the end of the second quarter.

The Wildcats kicked the ball off to start the second half, and once again the kickoff team was unable to stop the runner from breaking towards the end zone. Junior kicker Austin Breed made the tackle only yards away from the end zone. Two plays later, Moon ran the ball in to make it a 14-7 game.

The Wildcat offense then moved the ball down the field, but after Scales was carried off with an ankle injury, the Wildcats were forced to settle for a 15-yard field goal from Breed, making it a 17-7 game.

Eager to make up for having allowed the last touchdown, a determined Dunwoody defense recovered another Moon fumble, which allowed the Wildcat offense to go at it again. After a holding penalty stalled the Wildcats, Breed came in to kick the Cats into a 20-7 lead.

The Golden Lion offense refused to give up, pushing their way down the field until they finally shoved the way into the end zone, shortening the Wildcat's lead to a mere 20-14.

The rest of the game came down to the defenses, neither willing to yield.

The Pius defense held strong and forced Dunwoody to punt. The Lions had a chance to pull out the win with only 3:29 left in the game. On 4th and 9, P.G. Standard was tackled just short of the marker, and the Golden Lions' hopes for a region championship were over.

"We all played our responsibilities," said senior Skevos Christou, referring to the defensive scheme for stopping the Lions' option offense. "We made the right stops at the right times."

When the clock ran out, the Wildcats won, 20-14, to become the region champions. Both teams move to the state playoffs, with Dunwoody playing Central Carrollton on Friday at North DeKalb Stadium at 7:30.

St. Pius will host the Cartersville Purple Hurricanes Friday night.

"We are in the dance and everyone is 0-0. This is what you play for all season. Our kids are going to be ready to go and I think we are going to be fine," said Standard.

Dunwoody



November 15, 2008

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