



Coldwater Wins an OUTSTANDING State Championship Game

The Coldwater Cavaliers scored two touchdowns late in the fourth quarter to blow open a close hard fought game to defeat the Hawks of Columbus Bishop Hartley 24-7 in the OHSAA Division V State Championship game at Massillon's Paul Brown Tiger Stadium.

Coldwater (13-2), defended it's 2012 title and now owns four state titles (2013, 12, 07, 05). Having played in five consecutive state championship games, the Cavaliers are now the first team in OHSAA history to play 75 games in a five-year span and they own the state's longest active streak of qualifying for the playoffs at 17-straight years.

It was the second meeting between the two teams after playing in week two this season in Columbus where Coldwater earned a 41-16 victory. Both games played out in similar fashion with momentum exchanges between the two teams, but Coldwater responded with fourth quarter outbursts to claim the victory.

The Hawks took the opening kickoff and consumed over six minutes running 15 plays covering 64 yards to the Coldwater 16. But the Cavalier defense stiffened and stuffed a fourth and 3 run to force a turnover on downs.

Coldwater then went three and out and was forced to punt on their first possession. Hartley then ran 8 plays and moved deep into Coldwater territory but threw an incomplete pass on 4th and 8 at the Coldwater 23.

Coldwater started their second possession on their own 23 and executed a ball control drive of their own to move 64 yards in 16 plays before stalling out at the Hartley 13. But unlike the Hawks, Coldwater has a reliable kicking game and Matt Kremer converted a 30 yard field goal and Coldwater led 3-0 at the 7:45 mark of the 2nd quarter.

On the ensuing possession Harley again drove deep into Coldwater territory but TOD'd for the third time at the Coldwater 24. Then the Cavaliers and junior quarterback Brody Hoying went to work. Hoying ran 4 times for 29 yards and completed 4 passes for 61 yards including a 23 yard screen pass to Mitch Schoenherr to move the ball to the Hartley 9. Hoying completed the drive with a 9 yard run and after Kremer's PAT, Coldwater took a 10-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Cavs hoped to take the second half kickoff and put the Hawks into a deeper hole, but momentum had other ideas.

On their first play from the Coldwater 38, Schoenherr took a pitch around the right end for 6 yards but fought a little too hard for extra inches and exposed the football which was knocked loose by a Hartley defender. The Hawks converted the games first turnover into points as they drove 45 yards in 4 plays and Hartley quarterback Jared Brandewie scored on a 7 yard run.

The teams traded possessions and turnovers until the third quarter ended with Hartley facing a 4th and 1 at the Coldwater 18. The Cavaliers were in danger of loosing their 10-7 lead. Brandewie got the

first down on a 2 yard run, but the next two plays turned the momentum back to Coldwater for good.

After calling a time out on first down, the Hawks attempted a pass but Nick Clune and Mitch Fullenkamp combined to sack Brandewie for an 11 yard loss. On second down Brandewie's pass was intercepted by Hoying at the Coldwater 3 and he returned in 33 yards to the Cavs 36.

Then Coach Chip Otten decided it was time to "let Brody be Brody" and the Cavs drove 64 yards in 10 plays to score a decisive touchdown. Hoying ran the ball 8 times (including 6 straight carries) for 54 yards, Schoenherr added 10 more on two rushes and Coldwater increased their lead to 17-7 with just 5:13 left on the game clock.

Hartley failed to gain a first down in their next possession and after Schoenherr gained another 5 yards, Hoying put the dagger in the Hawks running around the left side of the line and tight roping the sideline enroute to a 32 yard touchdown, the longest play from scrimmage by either team. After Kremer kicked the PAT Coldwater led 24-7.

Hartley got the ball with 2:40 to play, but that was not enough time for the Hawks to score. Coach Otten then gave the rest of his senior reserves a chance to play and when the clock expired the celebration began as Coldwater celebrated their fourth State Championship.

The final stats revealed a very close game, but it showed that Coldwater was much more efficient with the football. Hartley outgained Coldwater 278-276 and had the ball for 68 plays covering 28 minutes. Meanwhile, Coldwater ran just 46 plays in 20 minutes.

Individually, Brody Hoying ran for 147 yards on 24 carries, scored all three Cavalier touchdowns and was 7 of 12 passing for 84 yards. In their last game in a Coldwater uniform, seniors Mitch Schoenherr ran the ball 9 times for 44 yards and led the receivers with four catches for 54 yards, Drew Otten caught two passes for 17 yards and Adam Klosterman caught 1 pass for 13 yards.

The defense played an outstanding game holding an offense that averaged 38 points per game to just seven and they stopped the Hawks three times on seven fourth down plays, all three inside the Coldwater 25 yard line. Schoenherr led both teams with 19 tackles. Mitch Fullenkamp had 11 tackles and 1.5 sacks, Nick Clune 6 tackles and .5 sack and Austin Klosterman had 4 tackles and one sack.

Though he did not play a down this season due to a career ending knee injury in the scrimmage at Lima Senior, Grant Muhlenkamp dressed and served as team captain in his final football game.

Coldwater will graduate 13 football seniors this spring, much less than the 23 graduates last spring. This is why hardly anyone expected Coldwater to make the post season, must less win a state title. And this will be the legacy of the Class of 2014; they rose above expectations and became the second group of seniors in the Ohio to play in and win their 60th football game.

Quite and OUTSTANDING accomplishment.