

# WestLinn Tidings

## Lions earn early shutout

BY MATTHEW SHERMAN

*The West Linn Tidings, Sep 9, 2010*

**There was a bit of rust but plenty of encouraging signs for West Linn's football team in its first game of the year last Friday.**

The Lions showed some great spurts on offense interspersed with a few miscues but played a terrific game defensively, forcing three turnovers and shutting out the Royal Scots 20-0.

Both teams put up some big numbers on the ground albeit in different ways.

The Lions hit McKay with a steady dose of Keaton Hedman who racked up 121 yards on 13 carries and scored a touchdown.

Christian Wilson also had a solid night, gaining 38 yards on six carries.

McKay, however, relied mainly on the legs of quarterback Ian Silbernagel. West Linn knew what a threat he was to run the ball heading into the game and the Lions' preparation paid off.

"I was really pleased with how well we were able to contain him," coach Ron Chappell said.

Silbernagel had 75 yards on 15 carries and a good portion of those yards came late in the game.

It took awhile for the Lions' offense to get rolling. West Linn took the lead early in the second quarter when a turnover set up a two-yard scoring plunge by Wilson for the first touchdown of the season.

And that 7-0 lead would hold up until halftime.

Defensively, the Lions kept McKay in check for the majority of the game. Junior linebacker Elijah Eaton had a terrific first game as did Kaden Staskiewicz on both sides of the ball.

Staskiewicz and the rest of the offensive line opened up big holes for Hedman and the rest of the rushing attack all evening.

"I thought our line did a tremendous job. We have experience coming back with our line and with our running backs and I think that showed," Chappell said.

West Linn took control of the game early in the third quarter when Hedman broke a 41-yard scoring run, making it 14-0.

Later in the quarter, West Linn put the game on ice when Ben Trussell picked off an errant pass and took the ball 28 yards for another score.

"Any time your defense scores for you that's huge. Ben kind of baited the quarterback and jumped in front of the pass. It was a really nice play," Chappell said.

After that, the defense continued to keep McKay at bay and the Lions put away a relatively easy win.

Kicker Brian Schiewe also had a strong game recording three touchbacks and a pair of big punts.

"He really contributed a lot to our defense's success," Chappell said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO / TRACIE KRELLWITZ  
Christian Wilson dives across the goal line in the second quarter of last Friday's game for West Linn's first touchdown of the season. The Lions knocked off McKay 20-0 behind a strong defensive effort.

On the whole Chappell was extremely please with his team's performance.

"There are a few things we need to work on. Our passing game is going to come around quickly. It's just a matter of getting into rhythm and getting our new quarterback and new receivers on the same page," Chappell said.

Connor Kelley threw two interceptions in the game but completed passes to four different receivers and also ran for 44 yards.

The road gets tougher for the Lions this Friday as they travel to face Centennial.

"They play on grass which will be different for us and they're an option team which we don't see often," Chappell said.

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