



September 18, 2009

Oshkosh Flyers Top West Bend East

*Dan Schmidt
Reader Submitted*

The Oshkosh Flyers 2009 football season got off to a roaring start last Saturday, September 12th with a sweep of West Bend East.

The Flyers' eighth grade team set the tone early with a 26-14 victory while the seventh grade followed up with a convincing 30-0 win. The sixth grade also pitched a shut out in their 14-0 win and the fifth grade closed out the day with a hard fought 7-6 victory.

Things didn't look good early for the eighth grade as East blocked a punt and recovered in the end zone to take an early 7-0 lead. Although the offense struggled early to find a rhythm, the Flyers still managed two rushing touchdowns by quarterback Sam Olejnik. Cole Yoder also scored after catching a pass from Isaac Xiong. The Flyers' defense was relentless causing five turnovers. Colton Sasman capitalized on one miscue, returning a fumble 30 yards for a score. "I am still trying to forget the first part of the game," joked head coach, Steve Frank. "Fortunately, our whole defense came up big when we needed them. They played as one unit and stood strong all day long," said Frank.

The seventh grade scored early and looked in mid-season form. "It was a nice win to start our season; the boys were prepared and played well," said head coach, Bob Dahl. The Flyers were led offensively by Michael Lor and Paul Egan who both scored twice. Quarterbacks, Jacob Christopherson and Billy Courchene both threw touchdown passes and managed the offense efficiently. Defensively, the Flyers were led by Alex Zowin and Kyle Cerroni but Coach Dahl credited the entire defensive unit with an "overall solid effort."

The sixth graders, led by their defense, were able to keep West Bend East off the scoreboard. The offense was stymied early with dropped passes and poor field position, but some half time adjustments resulted in better execution by the Flyers in the second half. Dakota Kettner led the defensive effort while Lucas Weber threw touchdown strikes to Blake Johnson and Austin Meulemans. Jack Gabrielson also booted an extra point attempt through the uprights. Head coach, Jeff Franklin was pleased with the win but knows his team must improve. "West Bend East played well, and we were fortunate to come away with a win in our first outing."

"A total team effort," was how fifth grade head coach Andrew Spanbauer described his young Flyers' win against West Bend East. "Our defense was stellar, holding them to one touchdown and causing three turnovers," said Spanbauer. Sawyer McCue and Jacob Luft each picked off a pass while Dylan Moldrem had a quarterback sack and fumble recovery that snuffed out a late drive by East. Offensively, the Flyers had several drives of their own stalled by turnovers and penalties. Fortunately, the fifth graders were able to score a touchdown on a McCue to Michael Spanbauer pass play that netted over 70 yards. A quarterback sneak by Carson Faust for the extra point ended up being the difference in the game.

The Flyers return to action this coming Saturday, September 19th with games against the Lake Country Chiefs at Oshkosh West High School beginning with the eighth grade at 9:00 AM.