

OHS football team is on a roll

Tornadoes enjoy second straight lopsided win; prep for Shabazz

By Joe Ragozzino
Sports editor

The Orange High School varsity football team has picked a good time to face a good Shabazz team.

The Tornadoes have won two straight in convincing fashion, improving to 3-2, and will gear up for Shabazz tomorrow night at Shabazz Stadium in Newark in a key Super Essex Conference-Colonial Division game at 7 p.m.

Shabazz, under second-year head coach Darnell Grant, also brings a two-game winning streak and has a 4-1 record.

OHS is 2-2 while Shabazz is 3-0 in the division.

OHS head coach Randy Daniel expects a tough challenge from the Newark team.

"They have some good athletes," Daniel said of Shabazz. "They are flying high. They feel good about themselves. They are doing a good job over there. We are going to have our work cut out."

Senior quarterback Jayquan Watson rushed for 122 yards and two touchdowns and returned an interception for a touchdown, and senior 6-foot-4 receiver Farrod Clarke caught two touchdown passes as the Tornadoes blanked Barringer, 48-0, last Friday at Bell Stadium in Orange.

Watson had a 24-yard touchdown run and a 55-yard interception return for a score to give the Tornadoes a 14-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Clarke caught touchdown passes of 23 and 49 yards in the second quarter from junior quarterback Safee Fisher and senior quarterback Kassan Messiah respectively. Watson had a 55-yard scoring run in the second quarter as OHS took a 35-0 halftime lead.

Junior receiver Jamar Summers caught a 31-yard touchdown pass from Fisher in the third quarter and sophomore linebacker Carlton Toussaint had a 40-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Senior Marquiso Jean kicked six extra-points.

Senior linebacker Michael White and sophomore end Rasheed Williams each had seven tackles and linebacker Watson and senior defensive back Kevin Boateng each had five tackles to lead the Tornadoes' defense.

The win came on the heels of a 41-8 divisional win over Central on Sept. 30 at Bell Stadium.

"We are coming around now," Daniel said of his team. "We are jelling. Each week, we are getting better and better, so we are starting to put it together. So it should be interesting this week."

Shabazz beat Central, 35-6, last Friday. In its previous game, Shabazz defeated Caldwell, 34-0, on Sept. 30. Both were divisional games.

Shabazz is known for capitalizing on opponents' mistakes. That is something the Tornadoes are well aware of.

"We have to not make mistakes," Daniel said. "If we don't make mistakes and play good on special teams, we have a shot against them. They score a lot of points on defense and special teams, so we can't come out and make mistakes."

Before coming to Shabazz, Grant enjoyed remarkable success at Irvington, taking the Blue Knights to the playoffs in the final seven years of his eight-year tenure.

OHS results

Sept. 9, Loss, Weequahic, 28-7

Sept. 16, Won, Verona, 14-12

Sept. 24, Loss, at Caldwell, 28-

22

Sept. 30, Won, Central, 41-8

Oct. 7, Won, Barringer, 48-0

QB Laroda leads EOCHS football

Senior quarterback Justin Laroda passed for 255 yards and three touchdowns and ran for one as the East Orange Campus High School varsity football team rolled to a 52-0 win over Irvington at Robeson Stadium last Saturday to improve to 5-0.



Above, the Orange High defense lines up while waiting for the snap against Weequahic in the season opener last month; at right, Orange High senior quarterback Kassan Messiah takes the snap as senior running back Jayquan Watson, No. 25, and senior tight end Michael White, No. 20, move on the play during the same game.



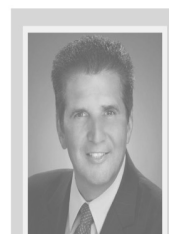
Photos by Steve Ellmore

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