

# Tornadoes play with gusto but do fall in football final

**By JR Parachini Staff Writer**, Orange Transcript

The Orange High School varsity football team was up 13-0 against Summit and forced the Hilltoppers behind by two scores for the first time this season.

But Summit senior Matt Rea came through with a huge block of an extra-point attempt. In the end, the sixth-seeded Tornadoes lost to top-seeded Summit, 28-19, in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 championship game on Dec. 3 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford.

Rea produced two highlight-reel touchdowns in the second half — one in the third quarter and one in the fourth — that came before and after Summit prevented Orange from tying the game on two-point conversions.

Orange had to go for two points with 5:02 left in the fourth quarter partly because of the missed extra point Rea blocked in the second quarter.

Summit's defense also prevented Orange from scoring after the Hilltoppers turned the ball over for a third time and then prevented the Tornadoes from putting more points on the board again in the third quarter when a long drive concluded with Orange missing a 35-yard field goal.

Rea's second touchdown run and Summit's 74th touchdown of the season came from 12 yards out. His score clinched Summit's first 12-0 season.

Orange had a two-game winning streak snapped and finished 2009 with a 7-4 record, including a triumph at defending North 2, Group 2 champion Caldwell 10-7 in a semifinal played 12 days before at Bonnel Field.

Orange, sparked by an outstanding performance from junior quarterback Contrez Hunter, had every thing to be proud of in the Tornadoes' effort.

Orange was the first team to take a two-touch down lead on Summit and the only squad to be ahead of the Hilltoppers 13-0. Summit previously trailed only Somerville and Cranford 7-0.

Summit never fell behind in the second half this year.

Orange was the closest to Summit in the second half, shadowing the Hilltoppers by a point in the third quarter at 14-13 and by just two in the fourth, 21-19.

Orange reached its first North 2, Group 2 playoff final in 2001, losing to West Essex, 16-6, at Kean University in Union.

Orange head coach Randy Daniel should be very proud of his team for the way it played. The Tornadoes gave Summit everything they had and proved to be a very worthy opponent.

Hunter had Orange in the end zone just four plays after Summit's first turnover, with the Tornadoes taking advantage of a short field.

Senior running back Spencer Drice gained 21 yards up the middle to the Summit one-yard line, then junior fullback Anthony Lagrier ran the final yard. Senior Bernard Fanor's extra-point kick made it 7-0.

Drice scored Orange's second touchdown on a one-yard run, capping an 11-play, 47-yard drive following Summit's second turnover.

Trailing 13-0, Summit senior quarterback Joe Jaskolski directed his team on scoring drives of 85 See **FOOTBALL**,  
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