

Westphalia Opens Football Season with a Victory

The Westphalia Blue Jays opened their season with a 20-13 victory over Mt. Calm last Thursday. Trailing 7-0 after the Panthers opening drive, the Jays scored 20 unanswered points to take a 20-7 lead into the half. The Blue Jays were able to overcome 3 second half turnovers as the defense held off the Panthers to seal the win.

After the Panthers scored on a long touchdown pass on their opening series, it did not take long for the Blue Jays to answer. Quarterback Tyler Willberg connected with running back/split end Andrew Fajardo for a 55-yard touchdown on the first play of the ensuing drive. Running back Ross Ashford added the extra point to tie the game at 7-7. The Blue Jays took the lead on the Panthers ensuing possession when Willberg intercepted the Mt. Calm pass and ran it back 20 yards for the touchdown. Fajardo's extra point run made it 14-7 Blue Jays. The Jays final touchdown of the half came on a 35-yard run by Ashford. The extra point pass attempt from Brett Willberg to Joe Arney came up just short. The Blue Jays went into half with a 20-7 lead.

While the first half was played nearly error free for the Blue Jays, the second half was sloppy. The half began with a Tyler Willberg interception. Mt. Calm returned the ball to the 15-yard line, but the Blue Jays defense held strong. The Blue Jays next two drives ended in fumbles, but each time the Jays defense held strong. The score remained the same until 4:00 minutes to go in the 4th quarter when Mt. Calm scored on a 15-yard touchdown pass. On the final possession of the game, Ashford and Fajardo were able to run out the clock to seal the Blue Jay victory.

Offensively, lineman Dawson Hering, Luis Vazquez, and Joe Arney did not allow a sack all night and helped amass over 150 yards rushing. The defense line applied pressure all night to the Panther quarterback. The defense was led by Tyler Willberg, Andrew Fajardo, Collin Doscocil, and Evan Randazzo. Teran Willberg added several key tackles in the defensive backfield and broke up a pass.

When asked about the game, Westphalia Coach Mark Vaught said, "I was disappointed in the way we played the second half. We need to do a better job securing the football. We got out to a lead and I think we got a little overconfident. There is lots of room for improvement. However, I did see some good things that we can build on before our next game."

The Blue Jays next game will be at home versus St. Mary's Catholic School of Temple on September 22nd. Kickoff will be at 6:00pm.