

Cougars Gear Up for Big Showdown with Palisades Park Tigers

The Cranford High School football team is seeking its second straight North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 championship, but first the Cougars need to prevail in their semifinals showdown with the Palisades Park/Leonia Tigers tomorrow night, Friday, November 30, at 7 p.m. at Memorial

Field in Cranford.

On November 16 at Memorial Field, the second-seeded Cougars cruised to a 37-12 victory over the seventh-seeded South Plainfield Tigers. The Cougars chewed up 416 yards on the ground and added 33 yards in the air. Senior quarterback

Reggie Green carried 27 times for 251 yards, including touchdowns runs of 16 yards and one yard, respectively, and threw for a third touchdown, a 14-yard completion to Bobby Bruns.

Senior running back Jimmy Dwyer blasted in for a two-yard touchdown, junior quarterback/

defensive back John Oblachinski ran for a 12-yard touchdown and Troy Kettler booted a 27-yard field goal.

In their quarterfinal round, the Palisades Park/Leonia Tigers improved to 8-2 with a 21-14 win over Rahway. The Indians took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter when Dante Raymond scored on a 51-yard sprint. Early in the second quarter Jeff Bost bashed in from one-yard out to give Rahway a 14-0 lead.

The Tigers awakened midway through the second quarter when quarterback Charles Simons scored on an 11-yard run, making the score, 14-7. With one minute remaining in the half, Simons knotted the score on a 15-yard touchdown run. The Tigers finalized the scoring in the third quarter when Adeyemi DaSilva pushed in from three-yards out.

Last year, the Cougars ad-

vanced to the sectional championship game with a 34-7 trouncing of the Colonia Patriots on November 19, 2011. The Cougars' first team defense held premier running back Greg Jones, who rushed for 450 yards in the previous game, to just 28 yards in the first half and 30 in the second before sending in the reserves.

Green had touchdown runs of 60 and 54 yards and totaled 192 yards on the ground. Kettler booted field goals of 32 and 20 yards.

The Cougars went on to shut out favored Parsippany Hills, 27-0, for the championship at Kean University on December 3. Green engineered primarily a running game that netted 259 yards and four touchdowns, while the defense recorded three interceptions, six sacks, a fumble recovery and numerous bat downs or tipped passes.



See photo on page 12 of The Westfield Leader

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GEARING UP FOR A "BIG CAT" FIGHT...The Cougars' football team (November 26) prepare for their sectional semifinal showdown with the Tigers of Palisades Park at Memorial Field in Cranford tomorrow, Friday, November 30, at 7 p.m.



Courtesy of Bill Howard for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ALUMNI FACEOFF...Westfield's Henry O'Brien takes a shot on Cranford goalie Mike Williams and defenseman Michael Ozolnieks as Westfield's Joe Kramkowski watches from behind in the annual high school alumni hockey game played on November 21, at Warinanco Rink in Roselle.

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