Blue Devils ‘Clip’ Cardinals in 6-0, OT Football ‘Slop Bowl’

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Sloppy conditions on a very muddy field covered with torrential rains, mud trails of slippery paint and unavoidable slippy play sets the stage for an “All-Madden” style of Thanksgiving Day football game between the Westfield High School Blue Devils and the Plainfield Cardinals at Hub Stein Field in Plainfield on November 27.

After all the slipping and sliding, the Blue Devils managed to score on their first series in overtime then halt the Cardinals on theirs to emerge with very muddy uniforms and a 6-0 victory to give Westfield a 36-47-7 series lead after the 110th meeting.

Because of numerous bad snaps and fumbles, both teams appeared that they were in a contest of chasing a “greased pig[skin]”. With throws for losses and sacks counted, the 7-4 Blue Devils totaled only 41 rushing yards on 26 carries in the first half but added 97 rushing yards on 26 carries in the first half but added 97 rushing yards on 26 carries in the second half to complement their 59-yard interception by Simcox and Luke Prybylski.

The Blue Devils’ first series was their longest, which took 19 plays that was perpetuated when Sean Elliott trudged 20 yards on a fake punt. Unfortunately a pair of penalties and a five-yard sack of quarterback Andrew Malacrea ended the drive at the Plainfield 29.

Midway through the second quarter, the Blue Devils got good possession on the Cardinal 28, but three straight throws for losses ended the drive. The Cardinals then got nowhere on their possession and were forced to punt, but a charging Prybylski capitalized on a bad snap and sacked the punter for a 10-yard loss, giving Westfield possession at the Plainfield 13. The Blue Devils advanced to the one then fumbled as the half ended.

The second half became a game of “guess what uniform number” was behind all the mud. In the “Mud Bath”, the Blue Devils’ first drive ended in a lost fumble at the Plainfield 11. On their third drive, the Blue Devils fumbled at the Plainfield 12. Their fourth drive resulted in a turnover at the Plainfield 33. Their fifth drive resulted in a turnover at the four. The next drive stalled at the Plainfield 13.

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