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SCHETELICH 4 RUSHING TDs; NORTON 41-YD TD REC; CHRISTIANO, TROTTER RULE ON 'D'

Cougars Overcome Roselle With 2nd Half Surge, 35-27

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Sudden negative impacts within the first six minutes served as a wakeup call for the Cranford High School football team that tried to minimize its losses in the first half then came on very strongly defensively and offensively to overcome the Roselle Rams, 35-27, in a struggle between two unbeaten teams at Roselle on September 27.

Trailing 27-15 at the half, the Cougar defense shutdown the

big Ram running machine, limiting them to only 32 rushing yards after rolling for 116 yards in the first half. Defensive backs Luke Christiano finished with five tackles and assisted on seven, and Kevin Trotter made five and assisted on six. Sean Leonard had three tackles and two assists. Linebackers Mike Palumbo, Niko Cappello and Eric Donahue combined for several tackles, as did linemen Nick Ballas and Jake Matthews.

"This was a Saturday game, so it's hot out. We couldn't really

get going. Everyone was getting tired. We started playing harder in the second half. We didn't take anything for granted. We went out there and started making tackles. It's all about the next play. Coach tells us the least important play is the last one. The most important is the next one. You got to fix your mistake and go on to the next one the best we can," Christiano said. "It was a mental attitude. We got a great defense. The first two games we won, we shut them down in the first half. It was about turning that switch on and going all out."

In the meantime, Cougar quarterback Jack Schetelich, who had an 11-yard touchdown (TD) run

and 76 yards rushing in the first half, found a lot of openings in the Rams' defense in the second half and ran for respective TDs of 11, 46 and two yards, adding another 140 yards to his ground game. Schetelich also completed six of nine passes for 94 yards, including a 41-yard TD strike to wide receiver Joe Norton in the first half and a two-point conversion toss to Donahue also in the first half.

The Rams, who have beaten Rahway and Hillside, scored easily on their first three possessions. The first one came on a five-play, 64-yard scoring drive within the first 1:10 when Darryn Canady scooted 17 yards and the second came on a three-play, 23-yard drive with 6:56 left in the first quarter after recover-

ing a Cougar fumble.

After the Rams scored their second touchdown, Schetelich engineered a nine-play, 67-yard scoring drive that was concluded with his 11-yard run with 2:46 left in the quarter. He made the score, 14-8, when he hooked up with Donahue for the two-point conversion.

The Rams answered with an eight-play, 80-yard march, ending with Canady's three-yard TD plunge with 10:48 left in the half. Three minutes later, Schetelich spotted Norton sprinting down the right sideline and connected with the 41-yard TD. Ram Gordy Moise returned the kickoff 63 yards to the Cougar 30, then three plays later, quarterback Gerald Hairston hooked up with receiver Rashaad Pendleton for a

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