

Sweet revenge Charlestown takes it to Salem for Sectional Crown,

Coach takes celebration swim

Jeffersonville Evening News Nov. 7, 1993

Sweet revenge: Charlestown takes it to Salem for sectional crown, coach takes celebration swim

By MIKE RILEY

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It was a sweet taste of revenge Friday night at Dutch Reis Field as the Pirates won the Class 3A Sectional 23 championship in convincing fashion with a 35-7 victory over Salem.

Charlestown (8-3) dropped a 24-15 decision back on Oct. 8 to Salem which cost them the Mid-Southern Conference championship.

The Pirates were able to turn the tables with a running game, taking the ball right down the Lions throats, plus a defense which all but buried one of the state's top running backs.

Led by quarterback Joe Ramsey, and running backs John Keltner and Casey Dumas, the Pirates amassed 270 yards on the ground while holding the visitors to just 98.

Salem's Brad Hamilton, the ninth-leading rusher in the state heading into the game with 1,543 yards was stopped cold on Friday as he totaled just 54 yards on 14 carries.

As quickly as Salem thought they were in the game, they were out when Dumas scored two plays later from 22 yards out. The 21-7 score stood at halftime, partially thanks to Brian Aaron's recovery of a Hamilton fumble late in the half.

John Elway of the Denver Broncos is supposed to be one of the best in the business at driving a team downfield with little time left near the end of the game. Maybe, but he could learn a thing or two from Ramsey about how to open a second half.

After Keltner returned the second half kickoff to the Charlestown 44, Ramsey engineered a drive that covered 56 yards in 16 plays. Dumas eventually scored from a yard out, but just as important as the score was the fact that just 4:50 remained in the third period. The Pirates had eaten up over seven minutes of the clock.

Since taking over the quarterback position two games ago for Scott Woods, Ramsey seems to have put a charge into the Pirate offense.

ally call Mullins "hold" because he gets called for holding, but not tonight.

"And Matt Miller, our center, went down with an injury and played hurt. He told me he couldn't block, but he stayed in there just to center the ball. When he could go no longer, Aaron came in and did a great job also.

"Those guys dominated play, and that third quarter drive just took Salem out of the game.

"Some of the bigger colleges have taken a look at Vaughn, but not real seriously. If they miss out on him, they're crazy. He can play anywhere.

"Then there was our defense," Mastin continued. "Tremayne had a big interception for us. He came through at the right time. And Whitney Renaker, Aaron and Adam Call really sealed up the middle.

"Whitney, we call him 'Jake.' Jake sounds more like a football player, Whitney sounds like a singer."

Coach takes a celebrations swim continued;

Salem's Brad Hamilton, the ninth-leading rusher in the state heading into the game with 1,543 yards was stopped cold on Friday as he totaled just 54 yards on 14 carries.

Meanwhile Dumas, who entered the game with over 1,400 yards and 22 touchdowns, gained 145 yards on 22 carries while Keltner picked up 109 yards on 24 carries.

In the earlier contest, Salem (8-3) totaled 334 yards on the ground, with Hamilton getting 146.

"We watched films on him and noticed that he hadn't taken a good shot from anyone," said Keltner. "We hit him hard, that kept him out of the middle."

Keltner scored from 11 yards out on his team's opening drive to put the Pirates on top 7-0. Charlestown also scored on their next drive, with Dumas taking it in from four yards out.

Down 14-0, Salem came back with an 11-play, 57-yard drive which saw Phillip Bowsman catch a 17-yard scoring pass from Adrian Brown. It was the only mismatch advantage that Salem had on the night as the 6-foot-4 Bowsman outjumped Ramsey, who stands at 5-7.

After forcing Charlestown to punt on their next series, the Lions were threatening to score when a flea-flicker pass from Bowsman was dropped by Justin Garloch.

Salem went to the well once too often on the next play as Brown's pass was intercepted by Tremayne Hunter at the 48 and returned all the way to the Salem 26.

the clock.

Since taking over the quarterback position two games ago for Scott Woods, Ramsey seems to have put a charge into the Pirate offense.

"It's just confidence," Ramsey said. "The morale is up, and I've got lots of support. Our line did a great job tonight. I'm not really surprised as to how we've played."

Dumas also had a major contribution to the drive as he lined up in punt formation on fourth down and five from the 40, only to complete a pass to Ramsey for a 13 yard gain and a first down.

"We were down 14-7 and had the ball at midfield", said Salem coach Jim Ralston. "Then we dropped a pass, then had one intercepted. After that long drive to start the third quarter, they were in the driver's seat."

Salem only managed to get two offensive plays in the third period as Eric Vaughn recovered a fumble, putting the ball back in Ramsey's hands.

This time the Pirates covered 41 yards in 12 plays, ending the drive and the scoring for the evening with a three-yard pass from Ramsey to Garrett Page.

"This feels great. What can you say?" asked Charlestown coach John Mastin.

The coach had quite a bit to say. "Start with our offensive line. Eric Vaughn, Jeremy Knight, Todd Paxton, Steve Long, Jeremiah Conklin and Chris Mullins all played great. We usu-

middle.

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Mastin did more than praise his team. Despite plunging temperatures, and on top of the traditional water cooler soaking, Mastin took a dive into the Charlestown pool afterwards.

"We've got four seniors who have been here for four years," Mastin said. "Keltner, he's a leader, he leads by example. Vaughn, Paxton and Brock May are the others. They missed out on a conference championship. But now they've won a sectional. They have some hardware."

Having made it to the final eight in Class 3A, Charlestown will continue next Friday as they travel to Evansville Memorial. Memorial defeated Heritage Hills 16-13 on Friday.

STATISTICS

	Salem	Charl
First downs	6	14
Yards rushing	88	112
Passes	3-11-1	7-56
Yards passing	34	28
Fumbles-lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	4-43	2-16
Punts-average	3-00.3	1-00.0

SALEM	07 00	-7
CHARLESTOWN	714 77	-28

Charlestown — John Keltner, 11, run (Pullen kick). Charlestown — Casey Dumas, 4 run (Pullen kick). Salem — Phillip Bowsman, 17 pass from Adrian Brown (Tim Jordan kick). Charlestown — Dumas, 22, run (Pullen kick). Charlestown — Dumas, 1, run (Pullen kick). Charlestown — Garrett Page, 3 pass from Ramsey (Pullen kick).