

Chiefs

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pass was once again no good as Lawrence intercepted the attempt.

"I think they just rallied around Shevlin," Fallor said. "None of the athletes they could sub in could do all the things he did. You just never know what's going to happen."

Both teams then traded turnovers to end the half, though Sweet Home's hurt a bit more. The Panthers, who were moving the ball fairly well, saw senior James Kennedy break a number of tackles on what looked to be a long touchdown run, but the ball popped loose from Kennedy's grip in the end zone and it was recovered by Iroquois with 3:18 to play in the half. The Chiefs did give the ball back with 17 seconds to go when senior Ryan Hughson picked off Mariacher.

"We figured if we played a good game, we'd be right there," Fallor said. "That last possession before the half took a little sass out of us."

Things opened up in the second half as everything that could go right for Iroquois and wrong for Sweet Home did in the third quarter. The Chiefs used a long pass play, two short running plays and two interceptions to post five touchdowns and blow open what had been a close, competitive contest.

Mariacher and Perilo got things started with their third connection of the game, this time from 50 yards, to push Iroquois's lead to 18-6 after the failed two-point conversion run. The Chiefs immediately got the ball back when their squib kick bounced off a Sweet Home player's shin and Iroquois recovered, and the Chiefs needed just 1:30 to move junior Tommy Lewis into position for a four-yard scoring run. Murie tackled on the two-point conversion run to push Iroquois's advantage to 26-6.

Already reeling from Iroquois's quick scoring, the Panthers had more bad luck as Mariacher intercepted a pass that went through the Sweet Home receiver's hands and returned it 79 yards for the score just 1:15 after Lewis's touchdown. Right before the interception, Lawrence had a pass glance off his fingertips in the end zone.

Iroquois needed just two defensive plays and 25 seconds to get its second interception return for a score when senior Tom Siejak returned one 18 yards to give the Chiefs a 40-6 lead. Iroquois's extra point kick was good, giving the Chiefs the 41-6 lead, but they still weren't done.

Iroquois's offense trotted back on the field after just two plays as Jared Lina recovered a Sweet Home fumble near midfield. The Chiefs, now playing their reserves, ran sophomore junior varsity call-up Matt Corigliano on five consecutive plays. Corigliano capped the drive, which included a 39-yard run, with a two-yard plunge to push the score to 47-6 in Iroquois's favor.

"It got to the point where it just wasn't our night," Fallor said. "I've been on the other side of that kind of game. Having two interceptions returned for touchdowns within two minutes just broke our back. The kids did play with a lot of heart, though, and we told them after the game that they had nothing to be ashamed of."

Iroquois broke Starpoint's 22-year old record for points scored in the Section VI championships (51) on its final touch-

down of the game, a 94-yard sprint up the right sideline by Corigliano that broke a seven-year old championship-game record (84 yards) and put the icing on the victory.

Corigliano's record-breaking scoring run was sandwiched in between a pair of Sweet Home touchdowns, but it was no where near enough for the Panthers to be able to make up for Iroquois' third-quarter dominance. The Panthers' first score was a three-yard run by senior Allen Douglas, and the second was a 49-yard pass from JV call-up Casey Kacz to senior Andrew Montanez.

"There's no one that should beat us that bad, but when things start rolling, sometimes you can't stop them," Fallor said. "These kids did a good job at getting back to the stadium, but you feel bad for them because all of a sudden, it's over. It's tough for them to take. There's a lot of emotion that goes through a game like that, especially at the stadium."

Iroquois was led offensively by Murie, who finished with 204 yards on 21 carries, while Corigliano added 161 yards on 11 carries, while Perilo finished with 123 yards on five receptions. Defensively, the Chiefs were paced by senior Tyler Brady's nine tackles. Seniors Lucas Mader and Matt Wesolowski each added six stops.

Sweet Home was led offensively by Douglas, who had 84 yards on 16 carries, and sophomore JV call-up Will Reese, who added 46 yards on four carries. Goree finished the game 10 of 20 for 165 yards, while Kacz added 68 yards by completing both of his pass attempts. Junior Marcus Johnson caught five passes for 126 yards, while Lawrence added 37 yards receiving on four catches.

Defensively, Sweet Home was paced by senior Paul Tagliarino's 13 tackles, while senior Augustine Merlino added seven tackles.

Iroquois will now return to Ralph Wilson Stadium at 6 p.m. Saturday to play Section V's Aquinas in the Class A Far West Regional. The winner of that game will then advance to next weekend's state semifinal in Rochester.

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Amherst's three-peat bid over

Home field advantage could not help Amherst Central's bid to three-peat in Class B field hockey.

The Lady Tigers, who defeated Iroquois 2-0 in a shootout for last year's Section VI title, fell 1-0 in overtime against Iroquois in Monday's final at Amherst.

Iroquois junior Andrea Gryzwna scored the game-winning goal 2:10 in the first overtime on a corner. Rachel Sluberski had the assist.

"The girls were really pumped up to play in the sectional finals," said Amherst coach Jennifer Higgins. "We had a great scoring chance early but failed to capitalize. We struggled offensively, only recording two corners to Iroquois' 12."

Abbe Hogle made four saves for Amherst (11-3-1).

Iroquois will play Section V's Pittsford-Sutherland at 3 p.m. Thursday at Amherst in the Far West Regionals.

Amherst had to work overtime to advance to the finals, defeating Medina, 1-0, in double OT, on Oct. 31.

Robin McDonald scored the game-winning goal using reverse stick with 1:50 left in the second overtime. Sara Heidinger fed a pass across the mouth of the goal for the assist.

Higgins said her team came out flat in the first half, only recording one shot on goal but picked up play in the second half with nine corners and seven shots on goal. Four others went wide, she added.

"Overall, we had a solid game and were very proud of the girls," said Higgins. "The second half and OT was one of our best efforts of the season."

"Considering that we went to triple OT two days previous (beat Pioneer 3-2 in shootout), we were



Amherst Central's Sara Heidinger (4) fends off Iroquois' Carly Dintale during the Lady Tigers' 1-0 overtime loss in the Section VI Class B finals Monday at Amherst.

Photo by Joe Eberle

just glad to have legs left at the end of the game," she added. "The 7 aside OT is very taxing on the six field players who are out there." Hogle made nine saves. Amherst defeated Medina, 5-0, in last year's semifinals.

Sports brief

Jillian Gately of Amherst was 1 of only 100 junior figure and hockey skaters from the entire Northeast U.S. region to be selected to skate in a show with national and world champions at the Stars, Stripes, and Skates ICEtravanganza Show on Sunday, Oct. 22 at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y. Gately participated in the recent Stars, Stripes and Skates Talent Search in the Olympic Rink in Lake Placid, N.Y. where dozens of young figure and hockey skaters between ages 4 and 19 took the ice in an "American Idol"-type program where they were judged by the audience solely on their performance- acumen.

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