

Diamond Girls to hold fundraiser

The WNY Diamond girls 2008 Elite 14U softball team will be holding an adults-only beer blast benefit to offset costs associated with the travel team's upcoming season from 7-11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, at Macaroons, 576 Dick Road in Cheektowaga. Tickets cost \$15 and includes pizza, beer, pop, a Chinese auction, a 50-50 raffle, and the Sabres game will be on a big-screen TV. Local band Hit N Run will also be playing starting at 10:30 p.m.

Total domination

Sweet Home explodes for eight touchdowns, defeats Billies 56-0

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Sweet Home's homecoming football game couldn't have gone any better.

The Panthers' offense amassed 559 yards, 339 coming on the ground, and the defense caused three turnovers in a 56-0 blowout over divisional opponent Williamsville South last Saturday.

The 56 points is the fourth-highest single-game point total in the school's history. The highest record being 65 points against Kenmore West in 1974, followed by 60 against Kenmore East in 2005 and then the 58 points Sweet Home put up on South in 2001.

The Panthers scored on five of its seven possessions in the first half to build a 35-0 halftime advantage. Senior running back Marcus Johnson had 127 of his 187 yards on his first two carries. Johnson busted up the middle of the South defense for a 60-yard TD on the second play from scrimmage and after the South offense was held on downs, cut to the outside for a 67-yard TD with 9:06 left in the first quarter.

"Our offense came ready," said Johnson. "We did what the coaches told us to do and the offensive line and receivers made their blocks."

Johnson also helped out on defense, intercepting a pass by South quarterback Chris Hauser at the Sweet Home 42, which led to a four-yard QB keeper by Sweet Home's Casey Kacz five plays later.

Kacz added a 25-yard TD to senior receiver Richard Rush in the back of the end zone with 1:07 left in the first quarter and a 36-yard bomb to junior back Will Reese with 4:53 remaining in the first half. He also hooked up with junior receiver Noah Nwachukwu on a 46-yard TD strike on the Panthers' first offensive possession of the second half.

A 10-yard TD run up the middle by freshman back Mikal Coleman late in the third quarter and a 15-yard TD run by junior back Michael Scott with six minutes left in the game rounded out the scoring. Scott's TD was set up by an interception from Jamel Werts.

Sweet Home kicker Nathaniel Moore broke a 10-year-old school



Sweet Home's William Reese hauls in a catch that becomes the Panthers' fifth touchdown of the day as Williamsville South's Jake Keim can only watch. Sweet Home beat South, 56-0, on Saturday in the Panthers' homecoming game.

Photo by Jason Nadolinski
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record with eight extra points. Tim Round had seven in 1997.

Reese led all receivers with three catches for 73 yards.

Hanif Russell also had an interception for Sweet Home.

The only mistakes Sweet Home made was a fumble late in the first half that was recovered by South's John Willet and at least eight penalties, including six holding calls.

"I think South was a little out-matched, but our kids executed well," said Sweet Home coach John Faller. "Marcus (Johnson) ran well and the line did an exceptional job blocking too. The kids had big holes. Even our reserves were blocking well."

"Penalties are penalties," he added. "Obviously we can't do it in games where it makes a big difference. We got everybody in and did what we had to do."

South was held to 129 yards of total offense. Howard Clark rushed 15 times for 59 yards. Tim Krempa had two catches for 41 yards.

The Billies were playing without nine of its 22 starters due to injury. Many are two-way starters.

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Mistakes cost Amherst its homecoming game

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Two crucial turnovers were the main reasons why Maryvale spoiled Amherst's homecoming festivities last Friday.

The Flyers converted two Amherst first-half fumbles into scores and left Dimp Wagner Field with a hard-fought 26-20 victory.

Tigers' coach Patrick Murphy said his team fumbled early in the first quarter, which gave Maryvale a short field and led to a 7-yard TD by junior Jamie Quigley. A bad snap on a punt attempt late in the second quarter gave the Flyers great field position and resulted in a 12-yard run by junior running back Brooks Estarfaa.

"We gave them a short field, and you can't do that against a good football team," said Murphy.

Amherst's main offensive weapon, junior Bert Smith, followed up his 334-yard school-record performance against Williamsville East last week with 202 yards on 20 carries, including a 61-yard TD for the Tigers' only points of the first half. He also had 10 tackles, one tackle for a loss, an interception that he returned for 25 yards and two kick returns for 59 yards.

Down 19-7 in the fourth quarter, the Tigers tried to rally with a 10-yard TD pass from junior quarterback Kevin Denny to senior receiver Viron Hale, but Estarfaa answered with an 18-yard TD run. Estarfaa (152 yards rushing) had a 6-yard run earlier in the second half.

Denny scrambled for a 10-yard run with 16 seconds left in the game, but the Tigers could not recover the onside kick.

Murphy said his team played hard the entire game.

"Maryvale is a hard-hitting football team, and I think this game showed we can play that style with anybody in our league," said Murphy. "I was proud of them. It was one of the best efforts we put in all year, unfortunately in a losing effort."

"We've started to gel a little bit at the midseason point, which is kind of indicative of a young football team," Murphy added. "We have eight guys on offense and six on defense who are all underclassmen, and I think they're starting to finally grow up."

Denny threw for 140 yards and a TD pass. Hale had eight catches for 133 yards.

Senior cornerback Matt Weber led the Amherst defense with 15 tackles, including one tackle for a loss. Linebacker Alex Dennis (eight tackles, tackle for loss), safety Hale (seven tackles, tackle for loss), junior linemen Sabastian Manunta (eight tackles, two

tackles for losses, sack) and Daniel Dixson (eight tackles, tackle for loss, sack) were other major contributors on defense.

Amherst (1-4) plays at 7 p.m. Friday at West Seneca East (1-4).

"They've been changing gears between the run and pass, so we have to be ready," said Murphy.

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Amherst's Matt Weber tackles Maryvale's Brooks Estarfaa during the Tigers' 26-20 homecoming loss last Friday. Weber finished with 15 tackles to lead the Amherst defense.

Photo by Joe Eberle
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East wins a shootout, earns first victory

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

It took five games and a wild shootout, but the Williamsville East football team is no longer without a victory this season.

The Flames (1-4) won 42-35 at Kenmore East on Saturday.

"It was draining from a coach's standpoint," said East coach Henry Fumerelle. "The game went back and forth. After the game, my staff and I went out to eat and we were exhausted. We felt like we had played."

The win also gave East a chance to avenge a 34-15 loss from week five last year.

"It was sweet revenge," said Fumerelle. "The kids talked about it all week. They felt like they owed them."

Flames' junior running back Mike Langfelder and senior quarterback Zach Stubbendeck had career days.

Langfelder, who had been nursing a sprained right knee since the first quarter of East's week one loss against Albion and played some against Amherst last week, had eight catches for 181 yards and touchdown receptions of 68, 34 and 43 yards; rushed 12 times for 59 yards, including a 3-yard TD; caught a two-point conversion; and had a game-saving interception at the East 10 to end a late Kenmore East rally.

Stubbendeck completed 23 of 38 passes for 330 yards and two touchdown passes, ran in two 1-yard TD runs and threw a two-point conversion to Langfelder.

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