

Cicardo paces Lacey's offensive attack

By **STEVEN FALK** • STAFF WRITER • September 10, 2010

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WALL — It is the type of a drive a really good football team makes.

Wall had just pulled within three points of Lacey with 6:57 remaining in the third quarter and appeared to have momentum on its side when the Lions' offense took over on their own 20-yard line.

"Everyone on this team has the mindset that we have to go. We can't let them come back on us," said Lacey senior quarterback Craig Cicardo.

The Lions, ranked No. 2 in the Asbury Park Press Top 10, methodically moved down the field behind the leadership and legs of Cicardo.

Eighty yards, 14 plays and 7:02 later, Lacey had regained command of the game. It went on to record a 27-7 win over the No. 5 Crimson Knights in a nondivisional game on Friday night.

"Our mindset is getting first downs. First downs is what turns into touchdowns," said Cicardo, whose father, Craig, is Lacey's offensive coordinator and a former Lions' quarterback.

Cicardo, who ran for 114 yards and a TD and threw for 128 yards and a TD, got the drive's first four first downs.

He ran for 10 yards on a third-and-3 from the Lacey 27. Two plays later, he raced for 15 yards to move the ball to the Wall 42.

Three plays after that, he scrambled for 7 yards on a third-and 5 from the Wall 37, and then three plays after that he ran for 3 yards on a third-and-1 from the Wall 21.

"He has tremendous poise," said Lacey coach Lou Vircillo.

Senior running back Jarrod Molzon capped the drive with a 2-yard smash on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The 6-foot-0, 186-pound Cicardo, a third-year starter, looks completely at ease running the Lions' spread offense.

It is Lacey's second full year running the offense, which is a variation of the offense the University of Florida and West Virginia run on the collegiate level.

The Lions compiled 353 yards of offense on Friday night.

"It's a lot of fun running this offense. It gives everyone an opportunity to get the ball. That's what makes it work really well," Cicardo said. "We have a lot of great athletes out there."

"I think he (Cicardo) is so comfortable in it and the entire team is so comfortable in it that it is a dangerous offense because we can do so many different things," Vircillo said.

"He (Cicardo) does take command of it like a little Tebow would (former Florida quarterback and 2008 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow). He can run, and he's dangerous that way and he can throw the football very well."

A 22-yard field goal by Matt Ruhnke, which came after an interception by linebacker Matt Uveges and Cicardo's 1-yard run closed out the scoring.

Lacey led 3-0 at halftime on a 31-yard field goal by Molzon with 1:07 remaining in the first quarter.

It took the Lions one play into the second half to extend the lead to 10-0 as Cicardo threw a screen pass to the right to Molzon, who then raced 80 yards for a TD.

"That was a great play. My dad called that," Cicardo said. "I let the defense come to me and threw the ball. He (Molzon) took it from there."

Wall pulled within 10-7 when junior quarterback Steve Cluley connected with senior receiver Kyle Janeczek with a 26-yard TD pass on a fourth-and-7. That capped a 67-yard, 11-play drive.

"Our offensive team is really ahead of our defensive team. It's usually the other way around," Vircillo said.



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Wall quarterback Kyle Janeczek (13) tries to escape the pursuit of Lacey's Jake Dabal. (STAFF PHOTO: PETER ACKERMAN)