

Lacey grounds Manchester



Lacey's Pat Jensen gives a stiff-arm to Manchester's Joe Johnson (2) as he returns an interception during the third quarter. (PHOTO: JERRY WOLKOWITZ/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS)

By *DAVID BIGGY* • STAFF WRITER • *October 2, 2010*

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LACEY — The Lacey football team's shutout streak is over, but it didn't matter Saturday.

"That's fine, because all we care about are wins," said senior defensive lineman Dylan Joslin, who recorded three of his team's four sacks as the Lions went on to rout Manchester, 41-6, in a Shore Conference Class B South game. "Shutouts are nice, but the win is the only thing that matters."

The Lions (4-0, 3-0) put up 34 points before the Hawks managed to get on the scoreboard, taking control of the game early in the first quarter and never looking back.

Lacey's scoring began just 41 seconds after the Hawks' first possession, which ended when senior Jared Molzon blocked a punt and the Lions took over at Manchester's 14-yard line with 10:47 to go in the first. Two plays later, senior running back Jake Dabal ran the ball into the end zone from 9 yards away and Molzon added the extra kick to make it 7-0.

Lacey, which scored on all of its possessions during the first half, pushed the score to 14-0 after senior quarterback Craig Cicardo hit Molzon on a pass and Molzon burst down the left sideline for a 68-yard score. Matt Ruhnke added the PAT with 6:51 left in the first.

The Lions' next drive went for 5 plays and covered 61 yards, capped by a 36-yard scoring run by Cicardo and 2:42 left in the first quarter. Ruhnke made it 21-0 with his second PAT.

"We always try to get as many yards as possible each time we have the ball," said offensive lineman Dave Vieira, who helped the Lacey rushing attack rack up 200 yards on the ground. "We just want to get on the field, score, and get off the field as fast as possible. We try to score on every play. It saves energy."

The Lions wasted very little of it on their fourth possession, going 64 yards in just three plays and finished off with a 45-yard run by Molzon to make it 27-0 with 8:45 to go in the half. Cicardo hit Pat Jensen for a 35-yard TD nearly five minutes later to make it 34-0.

Manchester (2-2, 1-2) scored with 11.2 seconds left when junior quarterback Tim Rogers found senior wide receiver Nate Nickens just inside the goal line for a 5-yard scoring pass.

Lacey finished off the Hawks on its second possession of the second half, when Cicardo capped the scoring with a 6-yard touchdown run and Ruhnke kicked the PAT with 4:22 to go in the third quarter.

On the Hawks' next possession, they got as far as Lacey's 33 before the Lions put the clamps on their fourth straight victory, started by Joslin's third sack of the afternoon.

"We feel like we can beat anybody, because our defense is immaculate," Joslin said. "We just had to shut down their key receivers and one of their running backs, and keep getting pressure on the quarterback."

Next up for the Lions is the team right behind them in B South, Barnegat. The Lions will face the Bengals on Friday night with a chance to pretty much lock up the division title.

"We have a defense like no other," Vieira said. "Everybody helps out, and we're going to do whatever it takes to shut them down."

Shutting down Barnegat means the Lions, who have allowed just 13 points this season, have to slow down quarterback Nick SanGiacomo and the Bengals' passing game.

"We have to get pressure on SanGiacomo, or he can be trouble," Joslin said. "But we think we'll be able to get to him. We realize it's going to be our time to shine, and that's what we're going to try to do on Friday."