

Lions ground Scarlet Fliers

Lacey rolls to remain perfect on the season

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Lacey's Jarrod Molzon outruns a Neptune defender en route to a touchdown. Molzon scored three touchdowns in the game. (STAFF PHOTO: KEITH J. WOODS)

NEPTUNE — If this was supposed to be a test for Lacey, there were no difficult questions. The Lions aced it, beating Neptune 38-0 in a Shore Conference nondivisional meeting of ranked teams on Saturday, though junior lineman Tyrell Smith insisted the victory wasn't as easy as it looked.

"Neptune is a good team but was missing a couple of key players. That didn't mean we could change our approach. We knew we had to fight hard and play to the finish," said Smith, who is 6-foot-5 and 295 pounds and a force at offensive tackle.

The list was long of others who also felt the urge to floor the gas pedal. Jarrod Molzon rushed for 123 yards, added 120 yards in three pass catches, returned punts for 40 yards, had an interception, scored three touchdowns and kicked a 39-yard field goal. Jake Dabal added 173 rushing yards. Craig Cicardo threw two TD passes and also scored on a run.

"This feels great, to beat a pretty good team on their field," Molzon said.

Lacey, 8-0 and No. 2 in the Asbury Park Press Top 10, is one of the two remaining undefeated teams in the conference.

Neptune (4-3), ranked eighth, had high hopes but didn't come close to overcoming the absence of running back Charles Davis (knee).

"We couldn't get anything going," Neptune quarterback Jaheem Woods said. "It's real disappointing. We can recover from it but we're going to have to work hard when we get back to practice."

Lacey had a 17-0 lead by the end of the first quarter. The damage started on the Lions' second play, when a screen pass from Cicardo to Molzon turned in a nightmare for Neptune, going 55 yards for a touchdown.

"Their defense has showed a pattern of being pretty stingy, so that was a big surprise the way we could move the ball," Lacey coach Lou Vircillo said.

The screen pass and similar plays throughout the afternoon exploited Neptune's eight-man front. As Lacey receivers and backs demonstrated the discipline to pick off Neptune's linebackers, the Scarlet Fliers rarely had a decent Plan B.

Smith, who plays both right and left offensive tackle and also plays guard in power formations, transferred from Lakewood High School before his sophomore season.

"This season has been a good experience for me," he said. "I'm asked to do different things and I'm happy to do it. They believe in me."

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