

Spatz leads Lions over Manchester

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Written by [John Bush | Staff Writer](#)

MANCHESTER — Locked in a grind-it-out game, Lacey turned to its offensive line — specifically the left side — to get out of Manchester with a victory.

Junior running back Kyle Spatz totaled 195 yards on 31 carries and senior fullback Jake Timony ran 28 yards for the go-ahead touchdown as the Lions eked out a 9-7 win over the Hawks in a Class B South game Friday at Manchester.

It was the second straight win for Lacey (2-2, 2-1) after a 0-2 start, while Manchester (2-2, 1-2) lost its second straight game after opening at 2-0.

“We sparked the fuse, and we’re waiting for it to light up,” Lacey senior tight end/linebacker Jordan Powell said.

Powell teamed with senior left tackle Tyrell Smith, who stands 6-5, and senior left guard Jacob Fernandez to spark a running attack that took control of the game and totaled 170 yards in the second half, including 138 yards by Spatz.

“That’s what we want to do, we want to push outside and get the ball upfield,” Powell said.

Trailing 7-3, Lacey rallied in the fourth quarter with an 11-play, 87-yard drive. Spatz ran eight times for 58 yards, mostly to the left side, and Timony finished with a 28-yard touchdown run up the middle, delivering a big stiff-arm along the way, to give the Lions their first lead at 9-7 with 9:40 left.

“(Manchester) adjusted their front, and my spotter upstairs, Joe Tobin, did a nice job locating that,” Lacey coach Lou Vircillo said of Timony’s touchdown. “He found it for me and we went right after it.”

Lacey’s defense then stopped Manchester twice, including two straight sacks to end the Hawks’ final possession. After Powell made the second sack, the Lions took over and ran out the final 2:07.

Defensively, Lacey focused on stopping Hawks senior running back Joe Johnson, who finished with 125 yards on 19 carries. While Johnson ran 46 yards for a touchdown on the Hawks’ opening possession to cap a 77-yard drive and give Manchester a 7-0 lead, his only other big run was a 54-yarder in the third quarter.

“We knew Johnson was a good player and he cuts back,” Powell said. “We’ve been practicing all week waiting for the cutbacks, we did what we were told and we got the W.”

Trailing 7-0, Lacey pulled to within 7-3 midway through the second quarter when junior Liem Dolly kicked a 21-yard field goal to cap a 51-yard drive.

“With a 7-3 lead at halftime we felt pretty good,” Manchester coach Gerard O’Donnell said. “We knew they were going to go to Powell and Smith. They didn’t have much in the second half until the fullback dive (for a touchdown). That was a good call by them, short yardage and the kid broke it.”

A moment of silence was held before the game for 14-year-old Francesca Marie Previti, a Manchester sophomore who died after collapsing Thursday during a gym class.

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