

Eagles run away from Paulsboro

WEST DEPTFORD – It's a broken record.

Week after week, the West Deptford High School football team runs the ball.

Week after week, the Eagles roll up yards by the bucket load.

Week after week, they put plenty of points on the scoreboard.

Friday night was no different than any other week.

With its three-headed monster doing what it's done all season, West Deptford kept its perfect season intact with a 55-27 victory over Paulsboro in its annual showdown.

"Hats off to our guys. We hung in there and didn't turn the ball over," West Deptford coach Clyde Folsom said. "One turnover here or there could have made the difference momentum-wise. Paulsboro continued to answer and we continued to come back.

"The O-line played hard and all three of our backs ran extremely hard ... Make that all four because (quarterback) Peter Orio had some critical first downs."

West Deptford (11-0) will face Cedar Creek (10-1) next Sunday for the South Jersey Group 2 title. The final is a rematch of last season's championship game, with Cedar Creek holding on for a 28-27 victory.

"Paulsboro was a good test because we needed to see a spread offense," Folsom added.



West Deptford's Anthony Seas picks up yardage during the second quarter of Friday's game against Paulsboro.

(Photo: Chris LaChall/Staff Photographer)

Orio earned the Mayor's Trophy for West Deptford, throwing a 33-yard TD pass to Jason Collier and scoring on a 20-yard run. He finished with 50 yards on seven carries.

Dehron Holloway earned the award for Paulsboro (9-2), which will play Salem for the South Jersey Group 1 title next Saturday at Rowan University. The junior returned the opening kickoff 95 yards, scored on runs of 52 and 13 yards, while also scoring on a 9-yard pass.

"I didn't realize just how quick he is," Folsom said of Holloway.

In sticking to its formula for success, West Deptford ran the ball 74 times for 519 yards – 133 yards more than its season average.

"It's a real tough task," Paulsboro coach Glenn Howard said of trying to slow the Eagles' vaunted ground attack. "There have been years where we've been able to slow them down, but this year we didn't make a dent. We couldn't get a stop. They were running on all cylinders."

Anthony Seas led the way with 211 yards and three second-half touchdowns. Gio Gismondi added 133 yards and a touchdown on 21 carries, while Kenny Lim had 14 carries for 125 yards and a score. The offensive line of John Maguire, Ryan Jupin, Justin Roane, Mike Flaherty and James Young, along with tight ends Collier and Kyle Garrison paved the way.

"They're amazing. They just keep getting better every day," said Seas, who had 144 yards on 16 carries in the second half. "They do their job every game, get down field, play hard."

Said Folsom: "Good backs are as good as your line. Our guys picked up blitzes when they needed, got first downs, kept the sticks moving and maintained possession of the ball."

Lim also scored on a 44-yard interception return, helping give the Eagles a 28-21 halftime lead. "It was real fun," said Lim, who scored on a 14-yard run after Holloway put Paulsboro on the scoreboard to open the game. "It's about executing your assignment on every play. If you do that, the offense can be pretty good."

West Deptford scored on all four of its second-half possessions, taking a 35-21 lead on Seas' 3-yard TD run on the opening series of the third quarter. The senior would then sandwich scoring runs of 2 and 10 yards around Orio's 20-yard TD scamper, with just over two minutes left.

"It's all about getting better every week," Seas said. "You can't take a step back, you need to take steps forward."

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West Deptford 55, Paulsboro 27

Big three: Anthony Seas, Gio Gismondi and Kenny Lim combined for 469 rushing yards.

MVPs: West Deptford quarterback Peter Orio and Paulsboro running back Dehron Holloway received the Mayor's Trophy for their respective teams.

Well said: "We're battle-tested. We've played against some strong teams and Paulsboro was a real challenge. The next step is preparing for Cedar Creek." – Lim on facing the Pirates in the S.J. Group 2 final