

Dalton rolls, wins WCAL in process

By **CHRISTY JOHNSON**
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DALTON — Even if the weather wasn't unseasonably warm, the victory shower Dalton coach Bob Ramsay received after defeating Chippewa 71-26 Friday night at McFarren Field would have been just as refreshing.

Not only did the dousing of cold water signify Ramsay's 200th win as Dalton's head coach, it celebrated the Bulldogs outright clinching of the Wayne County Athletic League title, the school's 18th.

"We did what we needed to do this season, what happened elsewhere with other teams was a bonus," said Ramsay after changing into a dry shirt. "We owe a thanks to Northwestern for beating two teams that were tied with us in the league in back-to-back weeks."



Ramsay

"It definitely adds a little extra to it that we are on top by ourselves," Ramsay said. "Going into the playoffs off a big win like this gives us a lot of momentum. I don't think there are a lot of teams out there saying that they want to play Dalton next week."

The big win was a total team effort for the Bulldogs, who had 405 yards of offense, scored 10 touchdowns and picked up two points on a third-quarter safety.

Leading the offensive attack for Dalton was running back



**Bulldogs 71
Chippis 26**

Andy Beun, who carried 10 times for 126 yards and two touchdowns. Travis Lint wasn't far behind Beun's numbers, going for 83 yards on just seven carries and scoring three times, including a 77-yard kickoff return with 3:04 remaining in the third.

Quarterback Gavin Hackett added 51 yards on eight carries and Greg Blevins carried it five times for 48 yards.

These four have been Dalton's bread and butter on offense all season long.

"If you look at our stats, we have those four key ball carriers who are close to each other in rushing yards," Ramsay said. "Everyone had a big play tonight, which is what we need to do to be successful."

It wasn't just the offense doing the scoring.

Dalton had two defensive touchdowns and Lint's special-teams score.

On defense, sophomore Josh Merriman picked up a fumble and ran it 18 yards for the score with 11:21 remaining in the first half.

Then, to start off the third quarter, freshman Chase Moyer picked off a Colby Busson pass and took it back for a 33-yard score.

Reserve players also found themselves in the end zone, with freshman quarterback Jake Masters connecting with junior Mo Hostetler for a 48-yard TD pass with 4:48 remaining in the third.

"It was nice to see some of the younger athletes get in and make plays," Ramsay said.

While the score reflects the fine job the Bulldogs did finding the end zone, it also shows

the strong effort put in by Dalton's defenders.

Dalton's first-string defense held Chippewa to one touchdown and 91 total yards of offense.

"We knew we were going to have to come in and contain Busson," Ramsay said. "That's what we were hoping to do."

For the most part, they did. But Busson came alive in the third, scoring two rushing touchdowns within a minute of each other on his way to 126 rushing yards on 10 carries.

Chippewa coach Brian Hesse didn't have much to say, but he did have high praise for his seniors.

"This season didn't go the way anyone wanted it to, but these five seniors came out every game and played their butts off," Hesse said. "After the game I told them I loved them and I'm proud of them. They played their hearts out and have done a wonderful job for us."

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Dalton's Jordan Boak goes up for the ball in front of Chippewa's Blake Zierau (26) during Friday's Wayne County Athletic League game at McFarren Field.



Dan Starcher photos/www.buydrphotos.com
Dalton's Gavin Hackett tries to find some running room as Chippewa's D.J. Saeger moves in for the tackle. The Bulldogs rolled over the Chippis 71-26 en route to winning the Wayne County Athletic League title outright.

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