

An up night for Norwayne

By MIKE PLANT

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WEST SALEM — With a young team, including a sophomore quarterback, Norwayne first-year coach Joe Harbour knows he will have to live with the ups and downs this football season.

Friday night was no different. The Bobcats, despite controlling most of the action, led Northwestern just 26-24 late in their Wayne County Athletic League game.

But quarterback Adam Wallace ripped off several key runs in the fourth quarter, enabling the visiting Bobcats to secure a 33-24 victory.

Norwayne (3-2, 1-1) rolled up 178 yards of offense and took a 26-14 lead on Cody Hartong's 25-yard field goal with 0:03 left in the first half, but a pair of interceptions thrown by Wallace gave Northwestern (2-3, 1-1) short fields that it converted into 10 points. Kurtis Schaefer kicked a 32-yard field goal, followed by Brennan McKean's 24-yard scoring pass to Billy Hostetler on the first play of the fourth period.

After the Huskies had a 58-yard Bailey Bejcek run called back with a holding penalty, Norwayne got the ball back and marched 73 yards for the clinching score. On third-and-7 from the 40, Wallace ran for 28 yards for a big first down, then rolled for 22 more on a third-and-9 at Northwestern's 31.

The sophomore finished the night with 154 yards on 23 carries, including TD runs of 14 and 20 yards in the first half, and added 165 yards on 11-of-17 passing.

"I haven't seen everyone in the county, but Adam has got to be one of the best athletes in the league," Harbour said. "He plays with more effort and more heart than anyone on the team.

"He's really a rookie quarterback and he's progressed so much, even from the first week of the season. He is a sophomore and he'll make some

young mistakes, that will get better as he gets more experience. But he runs so hard, and he picked up some crucial first downs for us late."

The game's opening three possessions saw three touchdowns, as the Bobcats converted a Northwestern fumble into a 4-yard TD run by Jac Strickler (20 carries, 55 yards) for a 7-0 lead.

Northwestern caught a break when a pass deflected off of wideout Billy Hostetler, who was triple-covered, into the hands of Bailey Bejcek, who raced 58 yards. Two plays later, the game was tied when McKean hit Hostetler on a fade pattern from 15 yards out.



**Bobcats 33
Huskies 24**

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Norwayne quarterback Adam Wallace (45) tries to outrun Northwestern's Zac Cherry (10) during their WCAL game on Friday on the Huskies' field. Wallace rushed for 154 yards and two TDs and passed for 165 yards in the Bobcats' 33-24 win.



Norwayne's Jac Strickler tries to run away from a pair of Northwestern defenders Friday in West Salem, where the Bobcats outscored the Huskies 33-24.