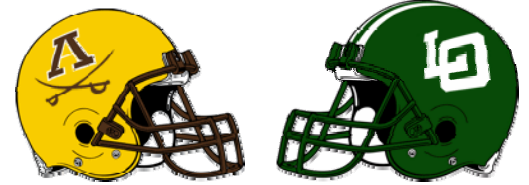


VARSITY

ADAMS VS. LAKE ORION

VARSITY



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Game #3 summary AHS vs. Lake Orion (away)

Game time weather: 74 degrees, gusting winds, partly cloudy and under a tornado watch

Flashbacks to August 24th were reminiscent to the Highlander faithful when tornado warning sirens sounded during the pre-game tailgate gathering around 6:00pm outside Lake Orion's field. This time it wasn't heavy rain and lightning but rather ominous skies, strong winds and a brief rain. The start of the game was delayed 20 minutes as the center of the storm passed through Oakland County. Nonetheless, Highlander fans once again filled the away stands for this storied rivalry.

The Highlanders kicked-off with the wind and Alex Verville's kick sailed out of the end zone almost into Oxford. The Lake Orion Dragons first possession began from the 20-yard line and resulted in a punt after the Dragons moved the ball to the 30-yard line and was shut down by the Highlander defensive unit. Senior Captain Jake Heinrich and Linebacker (LB) Dan Muncie dropped the QB for a loss on 2nd down and 11. Senior LB Aaron McNamara and Muncie pounded the Dragon RB for a loss of a yard.

Josh Renel wasn't able to advance the punt return as the Dragon defenders blew past the



Highlander blocking scheme to stop the dangerous RB. From the 34-yard line the offense got off to a good start when junior FB Beau Barterian picked-up 8-yards and QB Andrew Waszak ran the option across mid-field and down to the 46-yard line. Senior RB Braden Conner, Renel and Waszak combined to move the ball to the 38-yard line and a 1st down. After a blocked pass attempt on 3rd and 4, the Highlanders settled for a 55-yard field goal attempt. Verville's kick was not successful and the ball was turned back to the Dragon offense at the 20-yard line.



The Dragon offense was not able to generate momentum due to big plays by DE Heinrich, LB McNamara and DT Trumble. Lake Orion's 2nd punt of the game was booted 45 yards in to the wind and over Renel's head. The ball was downed at the 44- yard line.

The Highlanders 2nd possession of the game did create momentum and a score. Senior RB Braden Conner picked-up 27-yards off of great blocking by offensive lineman Reynolds, Sanders and Sirosky. Conner carried the ball again on the ensuing play and reeled off another 5-yard gain. A QB option / keeper by Waszak that picked-up 4-yards and a QB sneak was good for a big 1st down.



From the 20-yard line Renel and Conner combined to move the rock deep into Dragon territory, down to the 4-yard line. Senior Captain Josh Renel took the jet sweep around the left end and into the end zone to draw fist blood. Braden Conner's block secured the corner that allowed Renel to spin over the goal line. Verville's extra point kick split the uprights.

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With the 1st quarter coming to an end the Lake Orion offense needed a strong series to answer the Highlander's touchdown. Senior Kicker Alex Verville once again showed his strong leg as he would not allow the Dragon's to advance the ball on the kick-off. Nice Job Alex.



From the 20-yard line the Dragon offense moved the ball effectively after two pass completions that moved the ball to mid-field. A QB sneak that caught the Highlander defense by surprise picked-up 10 yards and a new set of downs. The 2nd quarter started and a beast of a fullback # 33, blasted through the middle of the defense for 5-yards. Senior LB Dan Muncey along with Heinrich blew-up the next play for a loss of 2-yards. An incomplete pass on 3rd and 9 brought up a 4th and long situation. The Dragon's faked the punt and threw a pass down the middle that LB Muncey tipped just outside the grasp of the receiver. Nice job Muncey!



The Highlander offense took over from the 39-yard line The senior RB tandem of Conner and Renel again showed their running ability and moved the ball past mid-field to the 48-yard line and a 1st down. QB Waszak ripped-off a nice veer option /keeper on the next play however this promising drive came to an abrupt end after

a tipped pass to Conner was intercepted by the Dragons.

The Highlander defense once again stepped-up after big plays by Captain DE Jake Heinrich and sophomore DT Jordan Sanders who blocked a pass attempt on 3rd and 7. The Dragon punter boomed a wind-aided 60-yard punt that Renel let get into the end zone for a touchback.

The Highlander offense looked like they were on their way again after running plays by Conner, Waszak and outstanding gain by Barterian. From the 38-yard line another untimely turn-over put the brakes on this drive.

With 5:35 left in the 1st half, the Dragon offense took over from the 35-yard line. Their FB blasted his way to a 6-yard gain. LB Muncey made two big plays to slow down the Dragon offense on 2nd and 3rd down. On 4th and 1, the Dragon offense picked-up 2 yards and a 1st down From the 23-yard line a QB keeper gained 7-yards before junior LB AJ Johnson came up with a big play to stop the RB for a 2-yard gain. Now with 2:38 left on the clock the Dragon's offense found daylight and picked-up 8 tough yards. LB Muncey stuffed the next play before the Dragon's took it into the end zone for their 1st score of the contest. They added the extra point.

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Most teams with 54 seconds left in the half would be satisfied to run a play or two and head the locker room. Not this team. After two consecutive penalties on the kick-off team the Dragon's kicked from the 30-yard line. Josh Renel fielded the kick and the exciting-to-watch RB didn't disappoint us. He ran the kick-off back 42-yards to give the offense great field position.

With 37 seconds left in the half Waszak's pass to Renel was complete at the 22-yard line. Barterina pick-up 4-yards and another pass to Renel near the far sideline moved the ball down to the 12-yard line and stopped the clock with 20 seconds left. Again it was the composed QB Waszak who hit Renel to move the ball to the 7-yard line. The clock showed just 6.6 ticks when Renel took the counter off the left side of the offensive line. He would not be denied as he willed his way over the goal line for a huge touchdown. That was an impressive drive by the entire Highlander offensive unit. Verville's kick was "good". ADAMS 14 LAKE ORION 7

The 2nd half started with a 20-yard kick return by Josh Renel. On the first play from scrimmage and the ball spotted at the 34-yard line, Waszak found Braden Conner wide open and delivered a strike to him. Conner caught the pass and it was off to the races and into the end zone for Conner's 1st touchdown of the season.

Verville added the finishing touch and his kick was "good".

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The Highlander defense stood tall again and forced the Dragon's to punt the ball away. The offense got on a roll again after Barterian, Waszak and Renel ran the ball well. Jordon Sanders blocked well for Barterian and Beau picked-up a solid 7-yard gain. From the 17-yard line facing a 4th and 1 the Highlanders fumbled the ball again and it was recovered by the Dragon defense.

The Dragon offense gave the ball to their big FB who nearly broke free until senior DB Mike (formerly known as "no sox") Monahan made a good tackle past mid-field. They went back to the monster FB and this time it was LB Muncey who tripped- up the Dragon after a 6-yard gain. On the ensuing play it was Heinrich who ran down the QB for a loss of 4-yards. The Dragon offense continued to mix up running and passing plays to move the ball into Highlander territory.

Good pass defense by junior DB Cody Wilson on 3rd down and 3 led to a 4th down pass that was complete and good for a 1st down. A 15-yard penalty for a late hit on the defense moved the ball down to the 14-yard line with 1:35 left in the 3rd quarter. Again the Highlander defense made a big "red-zone" stand and faced a 4th and 4 from the 7-yard line. The Dragon QB rolled out to the right but found no open receivers. His pass was incomplete and the ball was turned back to the Highlander offense as the 4th quarter got underway.

The next Highlander possession was an amazing display of clock control football. Several big plays by many of the offensive unit chewed up almost 10 minutes of the 4th quarter. A nice catch by Conner was good for a 1st down. Barterian almost broke another run and picked-up 9-yards and another 1st down. Josh Renel ran the jet sweep and a counter and reeled off good yardage. Following the solid blocking a center Stu Baker Waszak executed two QB sneaks to keep the chains moving.

The offense continued to shoot themselves in the foot when a 15-yard penalty wiped out a nice run by Barterian. Renel's run for a 9-yard gain left the Highlanders with 3rd and 14 from the 30-yard line. A QB option went for no gain and on 4th down Waszak threw an outstanding pass to Joe Reynolds that was incomplete. The ball was turned over to the Dragons with only 2:02 left in the game.

The Highlander defense would not allow the Dragon offense to mount any attack. DB Adam Smith smoked a Dragon WR after completion. LB McNamara but a gig hit on the Dragon QB after he unloaded the ball. On 3rd and 10 a pass interference call gave the Dragons a 1st down and the ball was spotted at the 25-yard line. With 37 clicks left in the contest the Dragon's pass was picked-off by DB Josh Renel and the game was over.

FINAL SCORE:
ADAMS 21 LAKE ORION 7

This wasn't a perfect game but a very well played game by the Highlanders. They can play better and eliminate the turnovers. The defensive and offensive lines are starting to jell.

Congratulations to the coaching staff and the players on the victory.

There's no rest for the weary as we now turn our attention to an undefeated Southfield Lathrup team. Bring on the wind, rain, tornados and what ever else Mother Nature has in store this Friday night. The Highlanders mean business and someone will go home with a loss.

Special Thanks to our contributors: Game photos by Jill Olmack; game summary by Dan Renel