

Addison changes role, garners award

Brown, Brock, Krivejko win other Player of the Week honors

By Dennis Brunson

When Anthony Addison lines up along the defensive line for the Sumter High School football team, it is normally with the intention of getting to the quarterback as an edge rusher.

That wasn't the case, however, in the Gamecocks' game against Oceanside Collegiate Academy on Friday. Instead, the 6-foot-4-inch, 215-pound junior was asked to focus on stopping the Landsharks' running game, meaning he was playing more on the interior.

"I had to take on a lot more blocks between guard and tackle," Addison said. "I was able to do that and let the linebackers get down and get the tackles."

Addison not only made it easier for the SHS linebackers, but he was also able to get in on his share of tackles as well in Sumter's 17-10 win. Because of that, Addison has been selected as the SAFE Defensive Player of the Week for the Sumter Touchdown Club presented by FTC.

The other three selections for the SAFE Players of the Week are The Carolina Academy running back Josh Brown for offense, Manning right tackle Jamon Brock as the Lineman of the Week, and Sumter kicker Alex Krivejko for special teams.

The four players will be honored at the club's weekly breakfast meeting on Friday at the Sumter County Recreation and Park's Jasmine Hall located at 155 Haynsworth Street. Breakfast will start at 7 a.m. with the program beginning at 7:30. The guest speaker will be Furman University head coach Clay Hendrix.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

ANTHONY ADDISON

SUMTER

DEFENSIVE END

JUNIOR

Addison had nine tackles and 1 1/2 tackles for loss. Despite the slight adjustment in how he lined up, Addison was still able to get after Oceanside quarterback Edward Reidenbach pretty well. He had one quarterback sack and four quarterback pressures.

Sumter head coach Mark Barnes said Addison handled the adjustment well.

"We kind of put him into a position where he was not as comfortable," Barnes said. "We wanted him to squeeze more and play on the line of scrimmage. He is aggressive by nature and we just asked him to be more measured on those first two steps. I'm really proud of him for buying in and doing a great job."

"I felt like I was successful in what they were asking me to do," Addison said.

Barnes said what makes Addison so successful is his motor.

“He impacts the game with his speed,” Barnes said. “He does such a great job chasing down plays. He just hustles so much and makes plays for us. He gets in on plays you wouldn’t think he would be a part of.”

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

JOSH BROWN

THE CAROLINA ACADEMY

RUNNING BACK

JUNIOR

Brown rushed for 268 yards and three touchdowns on 17 carries in the Bobcats' 40-6 win over The King's Academy. It was the second consecutive 200-yard game for the 5-8, 155-pound junior.

Brown credits the guys up front for the recent success.

“My line was able to get some holes and I was able to break a couple of runs off,” he said. “I was able to carry the ball a little better. My line went from not that many holes to big holes. I learned to trust a little more and not just bounce it outside.”

Bobcats head coach Al Calcutt said he likes what he is seeing from his player.

“I think the biggest thing is his confidence level is up,” Calcutt said. “He sees the open holes and he has breakaway speed. When he gets to that second level, he can outrun guys. That boosted his confidence.”

LINEMAN OF THE WEEK

JAMON BROCK

MANNING

RIGHT TACKLE

SENIOR

Brock graded out at 98 percent in helping Manning roll up 372 rushing yards in a 64-14 victory over Baptist Hill. Any mistakes Brock made were few and far between and he credits his coaches for that.

“I was stepping right; I was doing everything the coaches taught me in practice,” the 6-2, 280-pound Brock said. “I remembered what I was taught and I did it.”

Brock, a senior, is a 3-year starter for the Monarchs. MHS head coach Reggie Kennedy said Brock was on his game on Fri day.

“We couldn’t go wrong running behind him,” the coach said. “We ran the same play three times in a row. It’s a big plus to have him on the offensive line.”

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

ALEX KRIVEJKO

SUMTER

KICKER

JUNIOR

Krivejko booted a 41-yard field goal, was 2-for-2 on extra point attempts, had two touchbacks on kickoffs and averaged 30.0 yards on four punts in the win over Oceanside Collegiate.

A junior, Krivejko just started working on being a placekicker this summer, never having kicked at any other level. A soccer player, Krivejko knew Sumter was looking for a placekicker with the graduation of Judah Keaton.

Krivejko made the field goal with plenty of distance to spare.

“I put the weight on my front foot. I was locked in,” he said. “It was nice. I started training over the summer and I wasn’t great at first. I’m a soccer player, but I’m glad that I did.”

Punting is an even newer concept to Krivejko. He just started working on it in practice in the last few weeks. However, when Pate Merchant, Sumter’s starting quarterback and regular punter, was injured, Krivejko was thrust into that role as well.

“I’m surprised I hit them as good as I did,” he said. “I have a lot of faith in myself. I’m a pretty well-rounded athlete. I don’t think I did too bad.”

Barnes agrees with Krivejko on all aspects of his kicking against OCA.

“That was a huge kick,” Barnes said of the field goal. “We weren’t prepared to play without Pate (who was injured at the end of the first half). We knew they were going to take away the run and we needed to get it to a 3-score game (Sumter led 14-0 at halftime and the field goal stretched the lead to 17 points). That was a huge kick.

“It turns out he did a great job punting the ball. He had to punt for the first time in his life. He got off two great punts and we shoved him in there. He had two touchbacks (on kickoffs, meaning OCA had to start the possessions at its 20). That meant good field position for our offense. We understand the impact great kickers and punters have on the game.”