**NORSE LOSE OPENER TO PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA**

Pewamo-Westphalia showed the Norsemen what a perennial power looks like in a convincing 35-6 victory in the Norse home opener. Winners of 4 four state championships and six state final appearances since 2013, the Pirates had too much firepower and too many Thelens for a NM team that is trying to fill the vacated holes from many of their star players who have moved on after getting their diplomas.

Although the margin of defeat appears lopsided, the young Norsemen did show some promise for the long season that looms ahead. It was a scoreless first quarter between the two recent rivals that features two former Norse football players in their administration, former NM quarterback and now P-W athletic Troy Forton, and current principle for the Pirates, former NM wide received Ryan Portenga.

The biggest thorn in the side for the Norsemen was senior Pirate quarterback Ty Thelen, who rushed for 137 yards and three TDs while throwing for an addition tally. One of six Thelens on the Pirate roster, the two-way standout for P-W also had one of the three passes picked off by the Pirate’s defense and several times broke away for key first down pickups that kept the ball away from the NM offense.

Although the stats will show the NM quarterback had a mediocre day, his receivers didn’t do Colbert too many favors as many of his passes were dropped. A testament to Colbert’s scrambling abilities was Bryce was not sacked all night by P-W’s aggressive defense. Colbert did throw for 128 yards on the evening, including the lone NM score on the evening, a short TD toss to Cullen Bartos.

It was in the rushing department where the Norsemen fell short as they were only able to ground out 48 yards against a stout Pewamo defense. The Norse hold off the Pirates until midway through the second quarter when it took nine plays for the Pirates would score the game’s first TD. A quick three and out forced a Norse punt that would lead to the second Pirate score shortly before halftime. The big play on the drive was a dazzling 21-yard run by Thelen on a third and long play where he eluded several Norse tacklers. On the next play Thelen hit Cody Pohl on a 20-yard pass play to give the Pirates a 14-0 lead at intermission. A last-ditch halftime drive by the Norse fell short with one of the three interceptions by P-W in the game.

A pass interception led to a 21-0 lead early into the third quarter that iced the contest for P-W. The Norse followed with their only TD drive of the game. Aided by a couple of long pass plays from Colbert to Beckett Hoppa and Bartos, the Norse got on the board when Bartos caught a Colbert aerial in heavy traffic from four-yard outs for the lone Norse tally in the game.

Stats: NM vs Pewamo Westphalia

PASSING

Player Comp Pass INT Total TD Longest

 Passes Attempts Yards Passes

#3 Bryce Colbert 11 29 3 128 1 24

Totals 11 29 3 128 1 24

RECEIVING

Player Total Total Longest Touchdowns

 Catches Yards Catch

#1 Braylen Burrel 1 4 4

#2 Beckett Hoppa 2 32 18

#5 Hunter Wilder 1 3 3

#3 Cullen Bartos 5 66 24 1

# 7 Carlton Williams 1 17 17

# 11 Drew Gabriel 1 6 6\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Totals 11 128 2

RUSHING

Player Total Total Longest Touchdowns

 Carries Yards

# 3 Bryce Colbert 2 5 4

# 5 Hunter Wilder 7 27 6

# 6 Cullen Bartos 3 9 5

#20 Keefe Kersman 5 7 8

Totals 17 48

PUNT RETURNS

Player Return Total Longest Fair

 Attempts Yards Return Catch

None

PUNTS

Player Total Total Longest AVG

 Punts Yards

#3 Bruce Colbert 5 150 34 32.0

SCORING

 TDS Ex Pts Field Goals Longest

#6 Cullen Bartos 1

NM Defensive Stats vs. Pewamo-Westphalia

PLAYER Tackles Ast T TFL PD H Sacks Int FC F Rec

#0 Jourdon Ealom-Yff 3 1

#2 Beckett Hoppa 2 1

#5 Hunter Wilder 8 1

#6 Cullen Bartos 8 3 1

#7 Carlton Williams 2

#11 Drew Gabriel 3 1 1

#14 Blake Martin 1 1

#20 Keefe Kersman 4 4

#50 Johnny English 1

#52 Oliver Fricke 2 2

#54 Jace Thompson 1 1

#55 Clint Villapando 2

#65 Brennen Slayton 3 1

#71 PJ Wymer 1

#72 Jackson Dye 1

#79 Kael Gunby 1