**NORSEMEN USE GROUND ATTACK TO CRUSH HESPERIA 54-21**

On a picturesque early Fall evening with the Maple trees surrounding the outer perimeter of Fred Jacks Field displaying an early change of colors, the Norsemen rushed for a season high 421 yards to pound Hesperia 54-21 to move to 3-1 on the season. Cullen Bartos tallied 173 yards and three touchdowns in but six carries with Hunter Wilder racing 148 yards in seven attempts and two TDs to highlight NM’s rushing game. Senior quarterback Bruce Colbert only passed eight times in the contest, all in the first half for 106 yards and two TD strikes but ran for 69 yards in four carries as NM posted their third straight victory after their opening game loss to powerful Pewamo-Westphalia.

Bartos wasted no time to make known this was going to be a productive night on the ground for the host Norsemen as he took the first offensive carry of the game on a direct snap from center and raced untouched 60 yards for the first of the eight NM TDs accrued on the evening.

Hesperia quickly showed they were not going to be a pushover for NM as they took the ensuing kickoff and drove deep into NM territory before the drive was halted on a Carlton Williams interception in the end zone. NM then had an efficient 80-yard march capped by a short three-yard toss from Colbert to Drew Gabriel to improve their lead to 14-0. The score went to 21-0 early in the second quarter when Colbert teamed up with Becca Hoppa from 19 yards out.

The Panthers, aided by a key fourth down pickup crossed the NM goal line on a quarterback sneak to close the gap to 21-7. Bryce Colbert than showed he is more than just a passing quarterback as he keyed the next NM tally by rushing on two quarterback keeper plays that totaled 49 yards that set up a short Bartos score to make it 28-7. Hesperia then capitalized on a Colbert interception to set up a late second quarter TD that sent the two rivers conference teams into halftime with NM on top 28-14.

The visitors then took the second half kickoff and drove deep into NM territory before Eli Gomez forced a Panther fumbled recovered by the Norsemen’s Jace Thompson. That would be the last serious threat by Hesperia the rest of the game as the Norse rushing game dominated the game’s final minutes. It took NM just two plays to go 88 yards as Bartos dashed 52 yards to stretch the Norse lead to 34-14. A perfectly executed option play from Colbert to Hunter Wilder was good for 32 yards and another Norse TD.

NM closed out their scoring on a 25-yard burst by Wilder while sophomore Gavin Quarry got in on the act by carrying on eight straight rushes before scoring from four yards out for the final NM points. Hesperia scored on a late TD passing bomb to make the final score read 54-21.

NM OFFENSIVE STATS VS HESPERIA

PASSING

Player Comp Pass INT Total TD Longest

Passes Attempts Yards Passes

#3 Bryce Colbert 6 8 1 106 2 30

Totals 6 8 1 106 2

RECEIVING

Player Total Total Longest Touchdowns

Catches Yards Catch

#1 Braylen Burrel 1 30 30

#2 Beckett Hoppa 1 19 19 1

#6 Cullen Bartos 1 4 4

#11 Drew Gabriel 3 53 30 1

Totals 6 106 2

RUSHING

Player Total Total Longest Touchdowns

Carries Yards

# 3 Bryce Colbert 4 69 21

# 5 Hunter Wilder 7 148 0 2

# 6 Cullen Bartos 6 173 60 3

#17 Gavin Quarry 8 31 5 1

Totals 25 421 6

PUNT RETURNS

Player Return Total Longest Fair

Attempts Yards Return Catch

None

PUNTS

Player Total Total Longest AVG

Punts Yards

#3 Bruce Colbert 0

SCORING

TDS Ex Pts Field Goals Longest

#6 Cullen Bartos 3

#5 Hunter Wilder 2

#2 Beckett Hoppa 1

# 11 Drew Gabriel 1

# 17 Gavin Quarry 1

#9 Gunner Schmitt 6

NM Defensive Stats vs. Hesperia

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

#0 Jourdon Ealom-Yff 2 1 2

#1 Braylen Burrell 2

#2 Beckett Hoppa 3

#4 Spencer Williams 3

#5 Hunter Wilder 8 1 1

#6 Cullen Bartos 5 2 1

#7 Carlton Williams 5 1 1 1

#9 Gunnar Schmitt 1 1

#11 Drew Gabriel 3 4 1 1

#14 Blake Martin 1

#17 Gavin Quarry 2 1

#20 Keefe Kersman 5 3

#52 Oliver Fricke 4 2

#54 Jace Thompson 3 3 1

#55 Clint Villapando 7 4

#65 Brennen Slayton 1 1

#69 Eli Gomez 3 1 1

#72 Jackson Dye 1 1

#79 Kael Gunby 2 1