

By RAY COURTNEY

editorial@kcchronicle.com

GENEVA — Geneva knocked off previously-undefeated Kaneland, 45-23, Friday, thanks to 529 yards of total offense.

Vikings tailback Nick Herrera rushed for 183 yards, including a 77-yard touchdown run that broke the game open with 7 minutes, 32 seconds to play in the second quarter.

The long off-right-tackle run put Geneva up 24-7 at halftime.

"It was amazing," Herrera said. "Everything clicked for us today."

"He's got tremendous core strength," Geneva coach Rob Wicinski said. "He's built like a truck. That's what makes him so dangerous."

The Vikings set the tone early, marching 67 yards in eight plays to their first score with 7:59 to play in the first quarter. Junior quarterback Shaun Ratay completed his first three passes on the drive and then ran for 33 yards around the right side to give the Vikings a first down at the nine. Matt Skaar scored his first of three touchdowns on a 1-yard plunge.

Kaneland responded by going 59 yards in eight plays to tie the score at 7-7. Running back Jamie Snyder pushed through the middle for 3 yards to get the touchdown.

Geneva scored the next 24 points to build a 31-7 lead with 6:56 to play in the third.

Chris Koza kicked a 23-yard field goal near the end of the first. Skaar caught an option pass from Mike Isaacson while lying down in the end zone with 8:43 to play in the second quarter. Herrera finished it off by catching a 23-yard pass from Ratay with 6:56 to play in the third period.

"We've got so many kids that can do anything," Ratay said. "We've got Mike Isaacson throwing touchdown passes, Matt Skaar catching balls on his back, Herrera running for 180 yards. We've got a lot of weapons on offense."

Kaneland tried to go up top to get back in the game. Junior Jake Goedken ended up throwing the ball 42 times. He completed 21 for 274 yards but also had two interceptions. Kaneland junior Casey Crosby had a huge night, catching eight passes for 141 yards, including a 6-yard touchdown pass near the end of the game.

"The coaches saw that I could do that and it paid off for me today," said Crosby.

Geneva moved into a three-way tie for first place in the Suburban Prairie North at 3-1, 5-3 overall. Kaneland fell to 3-1 and 7-1. Batavia is also 3-1 in league play

"Geneva really played great and we played very poorly on defense," Kaneland coach Joe Thorgesen said. "Poor tackling, we're giving 10-yard cushions to receivers, and when we had a chance to make a big play, we didn't get it done. Geneva is a great offensive team and they took advantage of our mistakes."