

# Vikings quick to rebound

By BRETT SMITH

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GENEVA — Geneva football coach Rob Wicinski saw his team mature quickly in a week.

After losing to 2004 Class 5A runner-up Morris in Week 1, Geneva bounced back to defeat defending Class 4A champion Montini, 21-16, in a non-conference home opener.

"It's just a great win," Wicinski said. "It's just good growth from the first week to the second week out of the program."

Nick Herrera led the Vikings (1-1 overall) with 143 yards on 29 carries. Herrera scored Geneva's first touchdown on a 1-yard run after carrying the ball on all eight plays of a 40-yard drive.

"The line matured so much between this week and last week," Herrera said. "We worked a lot on it this week during practice and they came along beautifully today. They blocked their butts off and did awesome."

Herrera was the offense's focus as Geneva threw only seven passes. Junior quarterback Shaun Ratay did not attempt his first pass until 6 minutes and 10 seconds into the second quarter.

Ratay, whose only snap last season came against Montini, finished 4-for-7 for 115 yards and two touchdowns, including a 58-yard strike to Matt Skaar and a 22-yard pass to Herrera.

"Ratay was solid," Wicinski said. "That's all I need from him right now. And he'll grow each week and we'll start making some great plays out of him."

Down 21-3 after the third quarter, Montini (0-2) made a run in the fourth. Bronco quarterback Pete Cappetta scored on a 1-yard dive with 10:52 left in the game.

Then, on Montini's next drive, Geneva forced a Cappetta fumble. But Montini running back Johnny Borsellino picked the ball up in stride and scampered 85 yards to the end zone to cut the Geneva lead to 21-16.

"Under pressure, we came back," Montini coach Chris Andriano said. "So that was a good sign. We'll be ready for (the Suburban Catholic) conference. We'll be ready because we play people like this."

The Vikings' defense, which finished with eight sacks, halted a last-ditch effort by the Broncos. With 12.3 seconds remaining and no timeouts left, Montini had the ball at Geneva's 20.

Cappetta's first pass fell incomplete, and 7.2 seconds remained. His second pass was tipped in the end zone by Geneva's Brian Maurovich, who kicked all three extra points, with 1.6 seconds left.

Cappetta then dropped back to attempt one more pass on third down, but Ryan Coffland sacked him with no time left on the clock.

"I was supposed to go inside, but I read that he was going outside," Coffland said. "And there was nobody outside. I just swam over him and I made the sack."

Coffland also came up with a fumble on a Montini fourth down on the Geneva 4-yard line in the third quarter.