

Vikings on course

Geneva 41, DeKalb 0

Why the Vikings won: Geneva quarterback Shaun Ratay passed for four first-half touchdowns as the Vikings scored quickly on the Barbs and never let up. All 41 points were scored in the first 20 minutes of the game.

Turning point: The opening kickoff. Geneva junior Joe Augustine returned it 85 yards for a touchdown.

Outstanding player of the game: Ratay played only the first half, but he was 8-for-12 for 183 yards and had three touchdowns. He also added a 44-yard scramble that set up one of the scores.

By PAUL JOHNSON

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DeKALB – Geneva's football team was eager to get a chance to play at Northern Illinois University's Huskie Stadium against DeKalb on Friday night.

The Vikings looked right at home on a Division I field in a 41-0 Western Sun Conference win, pushing them to 6-0 overall and 3-0 in WSC play.

"We were all really excited to come out and play here," Geneva quarterback Shaun Ratay said. "We were pumped up and ready to have some fun. That's what you've got to do. You've got to have fun. You can't be too tense."

Once again, the Vikings had little reason to be.

Junior Joe Augustine took the opening kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown, making a couple of nifty moves along the way.

Two plays later, Geneva's Maxx Parcell jumped on a DeKalb fumble to give the Vikings the ball at the Barbs' 15-yard line. Ratay connected with tight end Aaron O'Connell from 5 yards out four plays later to give Geneva a 14-0 lead just 2 minutes, 19 seconds into the game.

"We didn't want to give them any chance of winning this game," Augustine said. "We just came out and pounded them right off the bat. Hopefully we can continue to do that the rest of the season."

After another stalled drive from DeKalb (1-5, 0-4), Geneva struck again. This time, the Vikings went for it on fourth-and-16 from their own 44-yard line and Ratay hit Mike Mayszak, who slipped a tackle and sprinted 56 yards for the score.

After forcing another punt, Ratay connected with Augustine for a 68-yard touchdown to push the lead to 28-0.

"Shaun never underthrows me, but he underthrew me on that one and I came back and got it and went for six," Augustine said.

Ratay's fourth touchdown pass was 3 yards to Pat Schiller. Chris Modjeski added a 9-yard rushing score to make it 41-0 with 4:04 left in the first half.

"[The players] were really excited about coming here, and so was I," said Geneva coach Rob Wicinski, a former NIU football player. "I was really concerned about not letting our emotions get away on us. They came out and took care of

business. I'm really proud of them. Executing early on was really important."

Ratay was his usual efficient self, going 8-for-12 for 183 yards. The only blemish was an interception that DeKalb's Loren Legorreta returned 65 yards to give DeKalb its best scoring chance of the day. The Barbs did not gain a yard on the drive, however, turning it over on downs.

"I forced that," said Ratay, who spoke more of the pick than his four touchdowns after the game. "I predetermined I was going to throw to that guy before the play even started. I've got to learn not to do that. That won't happen again."

Geneva rested its starters in the second half with the big lead and never scored again. The Vikings' defense made sure the Barbs didn't either.

DeKalb had only 17 total yards in the game. Three different passers combined to go 0-for-16 with an interception.