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Grady fills in nicely

Geneva 29, South Elgin 12

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 Comments (No comments posted.)

GENEVA – His first couple snaps, Sean Grady acknowledges, were a bit of a blur.

“I was like ‘What’s going on?’ ” Grady said.

Soon enough, though, Grady cut through the fog – and the South Elgin defense.

Grady, filling in at running back for injured starter Michael Ratay, rushed eight times for 84 yards, all in the second half, to help Geneva put away South Elgin, 29-12, on Friday.

“It’s a real glimpse of varsity football for me,” Grady said.

The Vikings (2-0) would rather not have had to press the junior into action. Ratay, who missed last season with an injury, had an excellent first half for Geneva before leaving early in the third quarter with what coach Rob Wicinski hopes is only a bruise.

“It was nice to be able to go in there and step in for Michael,” Grady said. “I feel bad he got hurt – I’m good friends with him and everything. Whatever I can do.”

Grady had one touchdown run of 32 yards, and another would-be TD run of 45 yards called back because of a holding penalty.

Ratay also finished with 84 yards rushing. The power back added a crowd-pleasing 46-yard touchdown reception, with most of the theatrics coming after the catch. That put Geneva up 14-0 early in the second quarter, a score that held until halftime.

While Ratay wasn’t around to see much of the second half, the Storm, too, were without one of their top guns. Junior receiver Josh Smith went down with an apparent knee injury in the second quarter while returning a kick.

South Elgin coach Dale Schabert said he was unsure of the severity of Smith’s injury, saying Smith would be evaluated today.

“It was a blow to our team, but our team is so energetic, it probably just made us play harder,” Storm safety Ian Sosna said.

Smith’s absence didn’t dissuade South Elgin from its pass-heavy ways. Storm quarterback Pete Scaffidi threw 38 times, completing 17 of his attempts for 196 yards.

With all the attempted air strikes, Wicinski was happy his defense kept the Storm to few big gains.

“That’s the second solid performance out of our defense,” Wicinski said.

Geneva was more efficient throwing than South Elgin. Quarterback Mike Mayszak was nine of 20 for 226 yards, with receiver Joe Augustine (five catches, 150 yards) his chief target.

Schabert thought his Storm played much better than in a lopsided Week 1 loss to Marmion, but playing respectably



South Elgin’s Kevin Davis, left, breaks a tackle by Jake Conforti of Geneva during Friday’s game at Geneva High School. (Bob Gerrard photo)

in defeat no longer interests the South Elgin coach.

"We've got to put that to rest," Schabert said.

Why the Vikings won: Geneva has better line play than the Storm, and a much more balanced offensive attack. The Storm were only able to rush for 33 yards.

Turning point: South Elgin junior receiver Josh Smith left the game with an injury early in the second quarter. Without Smith in the lineup, the Storm's big-play capabilities took a major hit.

Player of the game: Geneva receiver Joe Augustine. Augustine caught five passes for 150 yards, including receptions for 50 and 59 yards, to spark the Vikings' offense.

COMMENTS

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