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## Vikings bury Barbs before half

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GENEVA – It took only one half for Geneva to bury DeKalb – one virtually perfect half, that is.

With all three phases of the game working in harmony Friday, the Vikings throttled Western Sun Conference foe DeKalb on homecoming, 43-14, after going into the halftime break up, 43-0.

“Getting off to a good start was the emphasis all week,” Geneva coach Rob Wicinski said.

“We haven’t had good first quarters in conference, so we really wanted to get off the ball, get after it, not give them any breathing room.”

On their first possession, the Barbs (3-3 overall, 2-2 WSC) traveled 5 yards – in the wrong direction – thanks to one of linebacker Trevor Hyslop’s two quarterback sacks.

“On plays like that, your eyes get big and you just get real excited,” Hyslop said.

The play set the tone for a swarming Vikings defense that gave the offense numerous short fields with which to work.

“The defense set us up with great field position all game,” Geneva quarterback Mike Mayszak said. “They played outstanding.”

Taking their first possession at the DeKalb 39, the Vikings (6-0, 4-0) required only two Michael Ratay runs and a personal foul late-hit penalty to get on the scoreboard for the first of six first-half touchdowns.

The short-field pattern continued when Sean Grady snared the second of three Vikings interceptions to set up Mayszak’s 9-yard, rollout touchdown pass to 6-foot-6 Joe Augustine late in the first quarter.

That duo would hook up again on a picture-perfect, 8-yard fade to give the Vikings a 21-0 lead.

“Hey, Joe’s tall, so I just wanted to throw it up and let him go up and get it,” Mayszak said after throwing three touchdowns in his only half of play.

Geneva’s fourth score – a 2-yard Michael Ratay plunge – was set up by Jake Conforti’s 58-yard interception return. On the interception return, the Vikings knocked out DeKalb starting quarterback Kyle Wallin.

Even the Geneva special teams got into the act, with Mayszak booming a 58-yard punt and Chad Gericke blocking a punt to set up Ratay’s third and final rushing score.

Next up for Geneva is the punishing, Wing-T ground attack of Rochelle. The Hubs were upset at home, 9-7, on Friday against Sycamore for their first loss of the season.

“Our goal is to win conference, so we have to beat Rochelle anyway,” Wicinski said. “It doesn’t matter. Whether they won or lost, it makes no difference in our preparation at all. And I’ll make sure the kids understand that. ... And it’s going be a bloodbath. We’ll get our boys eating more biscuits and gravy or something before we get down and dirty with those guys.”

Geneva 43, DeKalb 14

Why the Vikings won: The Geneva defense intercepted the Barbs three times, forced two fumbles, bottled up the DeKalb rushing attack and applied relentless quarterback pressure all night, allowing the Viking offense to cash in on several short fields.

Turning point: This was never a game. The Vikings led, 15-0, at the end of the first quarter, and 43-0 at the half, capped by an impressive halftime fireworks show in celebration of Geneva's homecoming.

Outstanding player of the game: In just one half of play, Michael Ratay rushed for 69 yards and three scores as the first-string offense watched the final two quarters from the sideline.

## COMMENTS

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