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Neither rain nor Yorkville can stop Geneva's Ratay

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YORKVILLE – Yorkville coach Jim Still was hoping for rain Friday.

At least then Geneva's Michael Ratay couldn't take the hard cuts and quick spins that make him so much more difficult to take down.

He got his wish. But despite Mother Nature's help, the Foxes

(1-2, 0-1 Western Sun) still couldn't hold down Geneva's star running back as the Vikings (3-0, 1-0 WSC) rolled to a 41-6 win at Campbell Stadium.

Ratay finished with five running touchdowns, all on the ground and all in the first half, thanks to 265 rushing yards on 23 carries. The performance was one touchdown shy of his career single-game high.

"He's a fantastic football player and they scheme well," Still said. "But it's kind of like when Michael Jordan was playing. You know he's going to get his, but you just hope to limit the damage."

Ratay set the tone early with a 91-yard touchdown run on the first play of Geneva's second possession. He followed it up nearly eight minutes later with his second end zone run, a 1-yard plunge with 1:45 left in the first quarter. Sean Grady made the score 13-0 with the extra point.

"We came out real strong but there was one possession that we had a little bit of problems," Ratay said. "We fixed it and everything got under control and we kept going at it."

And if Geneva's offense did have and issues with the rain and wet ground, the Vikings corrected them quickly as Ratay scored three times in the second quarter to make the score 34-0 at halftime. The Vikings finished with 396 total yards on the game, including 326 yards in the first half.

Before pushing the score above 40 for the running clock, Geneva held the Foxes' starting offense to only two total yards and one first down. And for the second week in a row, the Vikings defense added six points of its own.

Defensive lineman Frank Boenzi capped the scoring with a 31-yard scramble into the end zone on a fumble recovery to make the score 41-0 on Yorkville's first possession in the second half.

"Coach [Dave] Carli just teaches us to scoop and score," Boenzi said. "And that's just what I did."

With their first conference win behind them, the Vikings face a difficult conference opponent in Glenbard South – fresh off a win against Batavia – on Friday in Geneva.

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