

## Chieftains Rally Late to Beat Royall 7-6

On a hot and humid evening the varsity football team opened the 2014 season with a non-conference game at Royall. Despite seven fumbles, eight penalties and two starters forced to leave the game the Chieftains rallied late in the fourth quarter to pull out the win. Coach Thompson "Very big win for us tonight. We overcame numerous obstacles and kept our composure and when we needed it the most we came through."

Things started with a bang on Friday night as the Chieftain defense forced a quick three and out and after the Panther punt we took over on offense. On our very first play senior Nolan Garoutte burst through a big hole and raced deep into Panther territory for a 61-yard gain. However on the very next play we fumbled and Royall recovered. Coach Thompson "Great job on the opening play but we made things real tough on ourselves with the numerous fumbles."

The Chieftain defense would continue to play well eventually forcing a Royall punt. Tyrell Anderson and Jordan Stanek each turning nice plays to help in stopping the Panthers.

On our next possession we gradually moved the ball downfield putting together a 12- play drive that ate up the rest of the quarter. Unfortunately, the drive stalled when a fourth down screen pass attempt failed. The Chieftain defense then stepped on the field and this is where we would face our first big taste of adversity. After we felt we had stopped Royall on a three and out the Panthers got new life on a penalty. Moments later Royall would convert a fourth down play into a 61-yard TD. We would stop the two point try but trailed 6-0.

On our next possession we struggled but still managed to pick up a couple of first downs. However the drive would stall and we were forced to punt. The Chieftain defense would rise to the occasion and force the Panthers to punt. We would then face our next test when starting senior QB Tanner Williamson was forced to leave the game. Trevor Troxel would then step in and did a great job guiding the Chieftain offense. We would put together an 8-play drive getting a couple of tough runs from Jared Roen and Tyrrel Anderson to drive deep into Panther territory, but a fourth down pass fell incomplete. Coach Thompson "Trevor stepped in and did a great job. The fourth down play was a bad call on my part."

The Panthers would then take over and after two kneels we went to half trailing 6-0.

The Chieftains would receive the ball to start the second half and Jared Roen would get us going with a nice 25-yard return. Moments later Tyrrel Anderson would take a toss and weave 42-yards deep into Panther territory. Great run by Tyrrel! Moments later Trevor would hit senior receiver Montana Lins on a nice pop pass and we were inside the Panther 10-yard line. We would then be hit with another setback as what appeared to be a touchdown run by Jared Roen was called back. Then on fourth down we were stopped on the one yard line and the Panthers would take over. Coach Thompson "That hurt, but we will get things cleaned up by next week." The Chieftains then faced another setback when Tyrrel was forced to leave the game. However, the Chieftains got a lift when sophomores Bradon Roen and Tavian Kaschub were able to step in and give the Chieftain defense some valuable time. The defense would hold and force a punt.

We would then take over on offense and again put together a nice drive. With Max Hougan stepping in for Tyrrel we would push the ball downfield, the big play a nice run by Jared Roen who cashed in on a couple of big blocks by Max and by Michael Boyd. Coach Thompson "Michael had a number of big blocks out there tonight." Unfortunately, the drive stalled on the Panther 4-yard line. Coach Thompson "obviously we need to cash in on these opportunities."

After another defensive stand we would fumble. The Panthers would then drive deep into Chieftain territory but we would make a big stand capped by a Montana Lins interception. Coach Thompson "That was a huge defensive effort!"

Now with roughly 5 minutes left and 80-yards to go the Chieftains were running out of time. Tanner was able to return to the game at QB and immediately hit Montana for a 12-yard gain. Moments later we overcame a holding penalty when Tanner hit Montana who made a tremendous catch for a 28-yard gain. Coach Thompson "Nice throw and great catch by Montana!" After two strong runs by Nolan, Tanner again hit Montana who made a nice sliding catch for a 15-yard gain. Two plays later Royall was flagged for pass interference setting us up inside the 10. One play later Jared Roen plowed into the end behind a surging offensive line and we had finally made it into that elusive end zone with 53 seconds left in the game. Keegan Franklin would then coolly drive home the PAT and we led 7-6. Coach Thompson "That drive says a lot about the type of players we have. We had a ton of adversity but when we needed it the most they found a way to get it done. They should be very proud of themselves. This game is going to be a great learning experience for us."

The Chieftain defense would now have to hold the Panthers and after a couple of nervous moments Trevor Johnson would come up with a big quarterback sack and force a fumble which Jarred Schneider pounced on to secure the win. Coach Thompson "Big win for us we had a lot of different people make contributions and in the end the offensive line of Dylan Peterson, Trevor Johnson, Zach Swaziek, Jarred Schneider, and Casey Ekleberry got the push we needed to finish that last drive."

We have a lot of work to do this week as we take on non-conference rival Brookwood in our first home game. Remember it was the Falcons who knocked us out of the play-offs last year. It should be an interesting game.

#### Stats

	<b>Riverdale</b>	<b>Royall</b>
1st Downs.	18	8
Rushing Att.	46	28
Rushing YDS.	310	159
Passing YDS.	92	104
Total Yards.	402	263

#### Individual Offensive Stats

##### **Passing**

Tanner Williamson 4-6. 74 yards passing

Trevor Troxel 1-3 18 yards passing

##### **Receiving**

Montana Lins 5-92

##### **Rushing**

Nolan Garoutte 16-128

Tyrrel Anderson 9-86

Jared Roen 12-82 1TD

Trevor Troxel 6-11

Tanner Williamson 3-3