

By Craig Hoffman
Tri-County News

A light rain made field conditions slick but it didn't slow down the Kiel offense as they spoiled Sheboygan Falls' Homecoming with a 27-7 Eastern Wisconsin Conference football win Friday night in Falls.

A strong rushing attack by the Raiders was able to overcome the slick field as they ran 49 times for 237 yards, just shy of five yards per carry. Cody Retlich ran for 100 yards behind the offensive starting front line of Nate Sell, Halden Lulloff, Dustin Salm, Kyle Preissner, Jordan Meyer and Brad Jaeger.

Ball control was just as crucial as Kiel's total time of possession was nearly six minutes longer than the Falcons.

Turnover into points

After a scoreless first quarter, it was the Raider defense that scored first as Gage McGeough picked up a Falcon fumble and rambled 20 yards for a touchdown with 8:21 to go in the second quarter. Brandon Riesterer's point after kick made it 7-0.

Allowing just one first down to Falls in the second quarter, the Kiel defense forced a Falcon punt in the closing moments. Just two plays into its next drive, Kiel quarterback Geddy Nordby found Isaiah Herzog on a fly pattern for a 53-yard scoring strike and a 14-0 lead at halftime.

Nordby engineered a 12-play drive to open the second half that took off nearly six minutes off the clock and was capped off by Derek Fritsch's two-yard scoring plunge and a 20-0 advantage before the Falcons got their lone score of the game, a 17-yard pass from Zach Van Engen to Nick Roelse.

Retlich put the game away scoring from 15 yards out in the fourth quarter.

Kiel coach Chris Bennin said the key to the win was being able to make proper adjustments to the field conditions and also praised the defense.

"We're starting to get more confident with our offense but we really stress our defense," says Bennin.

2 wins from playoffs

With the win, Kiel improves to 4-2 overall and 2-2 in the Eastern Wisconsin Conference. They need to win two of their final three games to qualify for the WIAA playoffs. Those games are this Friday at Campbellsport; Oct. 15 at home against New Holstein; and Oct. 21 at Waupun.

Sheboygan Falls remains winless to 0-6 overall and 0-4 in the EWC. They were eliminated from playoff contention with the loss to Kiel.

"Campbellsport is a physical squad," warns coach Bennin.

"But it's Homecoming week there and you never know what to expect. We need to win and get one step closer to the playoffs."

Kiel's JV's beat Falls 34-8 and the frosh also beat the Falcons last week.