

**By Greg Ceilley  
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Intensity, determination and teamwork have served the Plymouth Panthers very well this season. They were at it again here Friday night – demolishing a solid Kiel squad, 35-7.

The Panthers remained tied for the Eastern Wisconsin Conference football lead with Kewaskum at 3-0 and upped their overall record to 4-1. The Raiders dropped to 1-2 in the EWC (3-2 overall).

Plymouth’s vaunted ground game racked up a season-high 363 yards, led by the 1-2 tandem of senior tailback Hayden Potts and senior quarterback Mitch Unger. Potts carved up the Raider defense for a game-high 149 yards on only 15 carries and Unger gained 114 on just 10 attempts.

Potts and Unger combined for all five of the PHS touchdowns – highlighted by Unger’s electrifying 74-yard dash in the third quarter.

“It was a great game. They are a physical team and we had to be more physical, and we were,” said Panther head coach Dan Knaus whose team has won four straight. “The kids like that challenge and they stepped up.”

Knaus praised his offensive line which opened gaping holes for Unger, Potts and fullback Brock Reichardt who contributed 36 yards on nine carries.

“The offensive line played one of its best games of the season. It was the difference in the game,” Knaus noted.

The PHS starting line included center Ricardo Lee, guards Brad Hanson and James Seibert, tackles Austin Meyer and Ross Hegginbottom, and tight end Alex Grahn.

“The backs all ran hard and are determined,” the coach said.

The Panthers’ defense continued its prowess this season – holding Kiel to just 166 total yards with most of that coming in the fourth quarter against several PHS reserves.

“We played really good assignment defense against their option. We played solid, disciplined defense,” Knaus said.

The Panthers shut down Kiel’s leading rusher coming in, 215-pound fullback Derek Fritsch.

“We wanted to take their fullback Fritsch out of the game and that was a key. Alex Grahn played real well at defensive end – probably his best game,” Knaus said.

“This was a good win on the road against a Kiel team that was 3-1 coming in.”

The Panthers took command of the game by scoring on its first three possessions of the game to build a 21-0 halftime lead. PHS took the opening kickoff and marched 65 yards, capped off by Unger’s 7-yard TD burst. A 35-yard gallop by Potts keyed the drive.

Potts’ 2-yard scoring plunge made it 14-0 early in the second period. Unger’s 13-yard run sparked the 44-yard drive.

After stopping Kiel a foot shy on a fourth-down-and-1 run at the Raider 40, PHS needed only six plays to cash in. Unger scored on a 1-yard sneak with 3:48 left until halftime. Potts busted off tackle for a 24-yard gain to the Kiel 6 to key the series.

FOOTBALL	
<b>PLYMOUTH</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>KIEL</b>	<b>7</b>

	<b>Ply</b>	<b>Kiel</b>
First downs .....	14	8
Rushing Yards.....	363	138
Passing Yards .....	0	28
Comp-Att-Int.....	0-2-0	3-6-1
Penalties-Yards.....	0-0	2-6
Fumbles-Lost.....	0-0	0-0

**Score by Quarters**

<b>Plymouth.....</b>	<b>7 14 14 0 - 35</b>
<b>Kiel.....</b>	<b>0 0 0 7 - 7</b>

**Scoring**

- Ply – Mitch Unger 7 run (Aaron Cantleberry)
- Ply – Hayden Potts 2 run (Cantleberry kick)
- Ply – Unger 1 run (Cantleberry kick)
- Ply – Unger 74 run (Cantleberry kick)
- Ply – Potts 15 run (Cantleberry kick)
- Kiel – Brad Jaeger 7 pass from Geddy Nordby (Brandon Riesterer kick)

**INDIVIDUAL LEADERS**

**Rushing** – Plymouth, Hayden Potts 15-149, Mitch Unger 10-114. Kiel, Geddy Nordby 10-30, Cody Retlich 10-57.

**Passing** – Plymouth, Unger 0-2-0-0. Kiel, Nordby 3-6-1-28.

**Receiving** – Kiel, Brad Jaeger 2-18.