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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Year of the Dragon

St. George's prevails in shootout to run season record to 5-0

By Josh Krueger
Staff writer

MIDDLETOWN — It's not often student-athletes at St. George's School get to see other teams play. Usually, they all play on the same day and at the same time in the afternoon.

So a lot of the student body hadn't yet seen the school's undefeated football team

**ST. GEORGE'S 55,
ROXBURY LATIN 34**

in action. On Friday night, football was the only game on campus, and the students took advantage, lining the field as the Dragons took on fellow Independent School League unbeaten Roxbury Latin under the lights.

They didn't disappoint the home crowd, rallying from a two-touchdown deficit in the first quarter to roll to a 55-34 victory.

"This is a big event for the kids at this school," said St. George's junior running back Isaac McCray, a Middletown resident who ran for two touchdowns. "We don't get an opportunity to come out and support each other, and when we do, they go all out. It's nice to see."

Roxbury Latin took the lead on the second play of the game — a 54-yard touchdown run by senior running back Parker Kent, who rushed for 181 yards. Later in the quarter, Kent ran for a 20-yard score and the Dragons found themselves in an early hole.

"Our defense was suspect at times, for sure. The beginning of the game, it didn't look like it was going to go very well," St. George's coach John Mackay said.

With an offense like the one St. George's has, though, 14 points was far from insurmountable.

"I knew it was going to be a track meet, to be honest," Roxbury Latin coach Patrick Ross said. "Just watching them on film ... we knew it was going to be kind of a high-scoring night."

St. George's (5-0, 4-0 ISL) scored twice in less than three minutes at the end of the first quarter — McCray had a 36-yard touchdown run and Dave Lamountain scored from 7 yards out — and put up 14 points in the final 57 seconds of the half.

After senior quarterback Kody Greenhalgh ran for an 11-yard score, a C.J. Holcombe interception and return set up St. George's at the Roxbury Latin 23-yard line with one second on the clock. Greenhalgh, who had a 100-yard day on the ground, took the snap and pitched to McCray, who then handed off to Jim Stevens on what



Louis Walker III photos

St. George's junior running back Isaac McCray, a Middletown resident, evades Roxbury Latin defender Emmett Dalton during Friday night's game in Middletown. The Dragons improved to 5-0 overall and 4-0 in the Independent School League with a 55-34 victory.



DRAGON B3

St. George's students rush the field after Friday night's victory over Roxbury Latin.



Louis Walker III photo

St. George's quarterback Kody Greenhalgh, right, slips past Roxbury Latin linebacker Brendan Gibbons on Friday night in Middletown.

Dragon

Continued from B1

initially looked like a reverse.

Stevens, though, rolled out showed some nice touch on a 23-yard touchdown pass to Greenhalgh, putting the Dragons up 35-20 at the break.

"It's a trick play that we have and it always works. It's really hard to defend," Mackay said. "Jimmy Stevens actually played quarterback for us two years ago, and he's such a versatile athlete."

A 31-yard Greenhalgh run to cap the first drive of the second half made it 42-20, and Henry Savage, who had two interceptions,

scored on a 6-yard run on the second play of the fourth to put St. George's up 49-20. Less than a minute later, Greenhalgh intercepted Roxbury Latin quarterback Will Greer and returned it 45 yards for another score. That made it a 55-20 game.

"We knew coming in that this was going to be one of the toughest games of the season," McCray said. "All week we just spent our time making sure we were focused and ready for this game, and we're happy to come out victorious."

Roxbury Latin didn't lie down, though. After Greenhalgh's interception, which came with 10:18 left in the fourth quarter, the Dragons didn't regain possession

until the final play of the game. Roxbury Latin scored two touchdowns and recovered two onside kicks before its final drive stalled inside the St. George's 30-yard line with 23 seconds left.

"We've got to work on onside kicks, but other than that, it was a pretty good day," Mackay said.

There have been more good days than bad for St. George's this season.

"It's really uncharted territory for us," Mackay said of the 5-0 start. "The sky's the limit for us. ... As long as we can maintain our focus, we've got an opportunity to do something really special."

Krueger@NewportRI.com

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

'Rags to riches'

After persevering through some tough seasons, St. George's looks to finish undefeated for the first time in 64 years.

By Scott Barrett
Staff writer

MIDDLETOWN — When Tegue Tilo, a sophomore linebacker and running back for the St. George's School football team, steps onto the field at Gaudet Middle School on Friday night, it will be a special occasion.

Not because the Dragons are putting their 8-0 record on the line and attempting to become the first St. George's team since 1951 to finish a season undefeated. And not because the program — which has been around for 117 years — is playing in its first New England prep school bowl game.

It's because Tilo's father, Vasaga Tilo, who is currently stationed in Afghanistan with the Air Force, will be on a short leave and able to attend the Kevin Fleming Bowl, which pits St. George's against Pingree. Vasaga Tilo was deployed in June, and Friday will mark the first time he will be on hand to see his son play for the Dragons.

"It's going to be awesome. I can't wait," Tegue said before Monday afternoon's practice. "I'm going to play my best game, just for him."

Tilo, in his first year at St. George's after transferring from Middletown High School, said he and his father connect almost nightly via the Internet, and "he still tries to coach me over the phone, tell me what I'm doing wrong." But having his father there in person will be far greater than staring at a computer screen.

"I want to win for him," Tilo said.

St. George's coach John Mackay said the team raised a little bit of money and had camouflage T-shirts made.

"They say, 'Dragons football supports the troops,' and it has an American flag," Mackay said. "We'll give them to his father, and he can give them to other members of the platoon."

For Jay Cunningham, a senior lineman from Portsmouth, beating Pingree would be special for a far different reason. Cunningham arrived at St. George's four years ago with a group of talented but inexperienced freshmen. Those rookies, some of whom were forced into starting roles on the varsity team, went 0-8 that first season.

They continued to take their lumps as sophomores, but gained confidence and added a few more pieces along the way. As juniors, they were competitive in nearly every game, and this season, nobody



Dave Hansen | Staff photos

St. George's linebacker Tegue Tilo of Middletown wraps up Connor Fitzgerald during a drill at Monday's practice. The Dragons, who are 8-0, will play Pingree in the Kevin Fleming Bowl on Friday night at Gaudet Middle School.

'It's one thing to always win, but if you have that experience of never winning, and then you win, it's so much better.'

JAY CUNNINGHAM

St. George's senior lineman

has been able to keep pace with the Dragons, who on Saturday won their first Independent School League title since 1981.

Facing that type of adversity through his first three seasons has made the success this year that much sweeter, Cunningham said.

"It's one thing to always win, but if you have that experience of never winning, and then you win, it's so much better," he said. "It's like going from rags to riches. It feels like we really earned it."

With quarterback Kody Greenhalgh, a West Warwick native, and Middletown

resident and star running back Isaac McCray leading a potent offense, St. George's — which has 12 Rhode Island residents on its 41-man roster — has put up video game-like numbers. In a four-week span, the Dragons scored 49, 55, 55 and 56 points. The fewest they scored all season was 20 in a victory over Nobles in the league opener.

Greenhalgh, who threw for a school record 16 touchdowns last season, has been handing off the ball more this season, because St. George's "can roll out four of five tailbacks if we

ST. GEORGE'S B3



St. George's sophomore running back Tristan Edwards, left, returns a punt during practice Monday at the school's Middletown campus.

PRO BASKETBALL: BOSTON 111, HOUSTON 95

Thomas, Celtics win third straight

HOUSTON (AP) — Isaiah Thomas scored 23 points and the Boston Celtics used a 32-point third quarter to pull away and cruise to a 111-95 win over the slumping Houston Rockets on Monday night.

It is the third straight win for the Celtics and gives Houston a four-game losing streak for the first time since the team dropped seven straight in January 2013.

Boston led by 4 after a 3-pointer by James Harden with a little more than three minutes left in the third quarter. The Celtics closed out the quarter by scoring 15 straight points to take a 87-68 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Celtics rode the momentum from their strong third quarter into the early part of the fourth and used a

13-4 run to open the period and extend the lead to 100-72. Avery Bradley scored seven points with a dunk and a 3-pointer to lead the team in that stretch.

Houston coach Kevin McHale pulled most of his starters after that.

Bradley finished with 21 points and made four 3-pointers and Jae Crowder added 16 points.

Trevor Ariza led Houston with 19 points and Harden had 16. It was a sloppy game by the Rockets, who dropped to 4-7 this season, thanks in part to 22 turnovers.

The Rockets led by as many as 15 in the first quarter, but the Celtics got going in the second and it was tied 55-55 at halftime.

CELTICS B3

PRO FOOTBALL: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Brady: Replacing Edelman won't be easy



Associated Press

Giants safety Craig Dahl tackles Patriots receiver Julian Edelman during the first half of Sunday's game in East Rutherford, N.J. Edelman was injured in the first quarter and did not return. Reports indicate he has a broken bone in his foot but may return this season.

Associated Press

The New England Patriots are celebrating another victory and lamenting the loss of another key contributor.

The Patriots (9-0) remained unbeaten with a last-minute, 27-26 victory over the New York Giants on Sunday, but it came at the cost of receiver Julian Edelman. The 5-foot-10 former college quarterback went down grabbing for his left foot in the first half and did not return.

"Julian has been incredible for us. Incredible," quarterback Tom Brady said on his weekly radio show on Monday. "It's just unfortunate to lose such a critical player. But you've just got to try to figure it out different ways to get it done."

Edelman caught four passes for 53 yards before leaving the game on Sunday. Patriots coach Bill Belichick declined

'It's just unfortunate to lose such a critical player. But you've just got to try to figure it out different ways to get it done.'

TOM BRADY

Patriots quarterback, talking about injured receiver Julian Edelman

to comment on the severity of Edelman's injury, but media reports said Edelman had a broken bone in his foot.

"When someone's really integral to part of basically everything you're doing, and then you lose that person, it may take a little bit to kind of figure out how you can move things around and get comfortable with what you're doing," Brady

EDELMAN B3

SPORTS

St. George's

Continued from B1

have to. We've been lucky that way," Mackay said.

Just how far has this program come?

In the fall of 2010, St. George's made national news when it chose not to play a game against Lawrence Academy, citing a discrepancy in size between the players (the Dragons forfeited the game, but that ruling was overturned, Mackay said). The coach said the talent level of this year's team isn't much different than the one in 2010, but he credited the heart, will and chemistry of the current senior class.

"We just have a group of seniors that played as sophomores and have grown up together," Mackay said. "They have a great chemistry and just clicked this year. We rarely have a bad practice, and the kids just come to work hard every day."

Mackay also highlighted the work of his assistant coaches: Mike Hansel, Joe Lang, Scott Stachelhaus, Chris Richards, Justin Cerenzia, James Stevens and Ron Miller.

Connor Fitzgerald, a senior lineman from Eastham, Mass., is another player who has been with the program for four seasons.

"We had a lot of guys in our grade who were playing (as freshmen), and we wanted to change the mentality," he said. "We wanted to work a little harder, change the program around."

Pingree, which is located in



Dave Hansen | Staff photographer

St. George's sophomore Tegue Tilo practices Monday as the team prepares to face Pingree in the Kevin Fleming Bowl on Friday night at Gaudet Middle School, which was Tilo's home field when he attended Middletown High School.

South Hamilton, Mass., plays in the Evergreen League, the same conference as Portsmouth Abbey, although the Ravens and Highlanders didn't meet during the regular season.

The only common opponent between the teams is Middlesex. Pingree beat the Zebras in the second game of the year, and the Dragons won their rivalry game this past Saturday. The scores were comparable, Mackay said, adding that

Pingree and St. George's run a similar "spread, no-huddle offense."

"We're going to have to do a great job of making sure we don't make any mistakes on offense," Mackay said. "We're excited, because it's an opportunity to play another week, but we're going in thinking we need to win this. We want to represent not only our community and our program, but also our league. How do we stack up

against these other schools?"

Now in his 19th season with the program, Mackay has served as liaison for the New England prep school bowl games. Not this year, though.

"For 19 years, I have gone around to hand out all of the trophies because we were never in one," he said. "I enjoyed that, but this is a hell of a lot more enjoyable."

Barrett@NewportRI.com

COMING EVENTS

TODAY

HIGH SCHOOLS
Girls volleyball
Division III semifinal
Portsmouth at Juanita Sanchez, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

COLLEGES
Men's basketball
Salve Regina at Coast Guard, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

COLLEGES
Women's basketball
Johnson & Wales at Salve Regina, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

HIGH SCHOOLS
Football
Division II semifinal
St. Raphael at Rogers, 6 p.m.

LOCAL ROUNDUP

YOUTH CHEERLEADING

Portsmouth heading to nationals

The Portsmouth Pop Warner Peewee cheerleaders placed second at the New England regional competition on Saturday in Springfield, Mass. The team next will participate in the national championships in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 9. The team will be raising

funds to offset the cost of the trip.

One planned event is a guest bartending night at Cappy's Hillside Cafe in Newport from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday. Anyone interested in donating to the team's travel fund can contact **Carol Murredu** at 855-1701 or Portsmouth Youth Football and Cheerleading President **John Hurd** at pyfjohn@gmail.com.

SCHOOL ROUNDUP

FIELD HOCKEY

Middlesex 3, St. George's 0

Middlesex dropped St. George's 3-0 on Saturday in Concord, Mass., in the regular-season finale for both teams. St. George's seniors **Olivia Vitton**, **Olivia Soares**, **Vivian Foley**, **Laura Edson**, **Annabel Grunebaum**, **Ashlyn Bufum** and **Dee Cotton-Samuel** played well.

BOYS SOCCER

Middlesex 4, St. George's 1

Anthony von Steuben put St. George's ahead in the 19th minute on a **Larry Hennessy** assist, but Middlesex scored four unanswered goals and won 4-1 on Saturday in Concord, Mass. **Luke Crimmins**, **Antonio Couto** and **Miles Booth** all had strong scoring chances for St. George's but couldn't convert.

GIRLS SOCCER

Middlesex 4, St. George's 2

St. George's wrapped up its season with a 4-2 loss to Middlesex on Saturday in Concord, Mass. **Rachael Boule** scored the first St. George's goal 10 minutes into the second half off a free kick from 30 yards out. With eight minutes left, **Peyton Mulhern** headed a **Beth Larcom** punt over to a streaking **Irem Tural**, who knocked it in to bring St. George's to within a goal at 3-2. But 30 seconds later,

Middlesex was awarded a penalty kick and converted to seal the win.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

St. George's takes ninth place

St. George's placed ninth among 24 teams on Saturday at the New England Division III championship meet in New Milford, Conn. The Dragons posted 13 personal-best times, including their top finisher, **Taylor Kirkpatrick**, who was 17th overall in 21 minutes, 11 seconds and qualified to participate in the New England All Star race at St. Mark's School this Saturday. **Allie Riker** finished 29th in 21:45, while **Anna Molinari** (22:58), **Dixie Marr** (23:06) and **Tilly Peck** (23:24) all ran personal-best times.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Dragons finish fourth

Three St. George's runners placed in the top 20 in a field of 139 runners and the Dragons finished in fourth place at the 20-team New England Division III championship meet on Saturday in New Milford, Conn. **William Braff** finished sixth to lead St. George's, **Andrew Braff** was seventh and **John Kirkpatrick** placed 18th. **Ben White**, **Evan Jackson** and **Austin Page** were the next three St. George's finishers, all coming in under 20 minutes.

PRO FOOTBALL

It's not yet time for Broncos, Seahawks, Packers and Colts to throw in the towel

This isn't at all what the Broncos, Seahawks, Packers and Colts had in mind.

Before the season kicked off in September, these were considered elite teams, and rightly so. Denver had built a monster of a defense to complement Peyton Manning's offense.

Seattle was coming off a last-minute Super Bowl loss and had added brilliant tight end Jimmy Graham.

Indianapolis had taken incremental steps in the play-offs that seemed to place it on the verge of a trip to the big game, with Andrew Luck threatening to win league MVP honors. Green Bay already had the league's Most Valuable Player, Aaron Rodgers, and no NFC team appeared as balanced.

Nine weeks later, all four are searching for answers, even as they remain in playoff position.

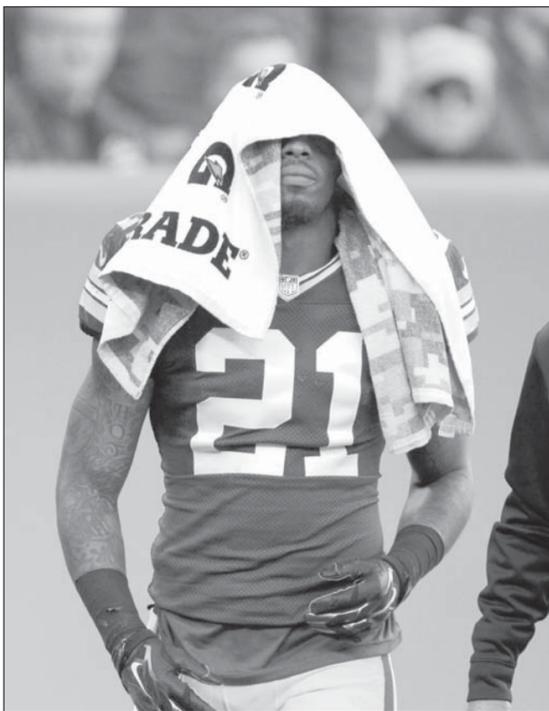
"This isn't easy," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said of his team's three-game slide after winning its first six, then going on its bye week. "And frankly, if we spoiled you in the past, that's great. We're looking forward to spoiling you again in the future."

What has spoiled at Lambeau and in the Mile High City, in Naptown and the Pacific Northwest? And can the problems be fixed in the next seven games?

BRONCOS (7-2): Denver started the season with seven victories as its defense more than made up for the inconsistencies of Manning, who suddenly has turned a very old 39. His health issues — including the latest, a partially torn plantar fascia that makes every step painful — are really holding back the Broncos.

Coach Gary Kubiak knows it, and now regrets starting Manning in Sunday's awful loss to Kansas City.

"Guys want to play," Kubiak said. "That's why he's a great player. But as a football coach, sometimes you have to say, 'No, I don't think this is the right thing today.'"



Associated Press

Green Bay Packers safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix covers his head as he walks off the field during Sunday's loss to the Detroit Lions. After starting 6-0, the Packers have lost three straight and join a few other once-elite teams that have struggled of late.

The time to say "No," for at least a week or two, has come. Denver has a three-game lead in the AFC West and neither Kansas City nor Oakland seems capable of making a major run. So the five-time MVP will rest next week-end against Chicago while the Broncos see what Brock Osweiler can do, and rely on that defense, although it is banged up, to carry the team.

PACKERS (6-3): This slide is totally confounding, and losing to the Lions at Lambeau for the first time since Barry Sanders was toting the football is shocking.

While the defense has taken a step or two back from its strong opening performances, it's Rodgers and the offense that has fallen flat. Yes, he misses top target Jordy Nelson, but the receiver hasn't been around all season and Green Bay was doing fine without him.

Blame in large part

an offensive line that has regressed the past few weeks. That's damaged the running game, but most distressingly, it's put Rodgers in a bulls-eye.

"Aaron's been hit way too much three weeks in a row," McCarthy said. "No one feels good about it. I'm sure he doesn't feel very good."

He'll feel better if the Packers can turn it back around, and they will get the opportunity — they have two games remaining with NFC North leader Minnesota, including Sunday in the Twin Cities. Of the four struggling teams, Green Bay has the best chance of reversing the current trend.

SEAHAWKS (4-5): Yep, 4-5. With two losses at home that, save for an officiating miscue, could be three.

Seattle was outplayed for much of Sunday night's meeting with NFC West leader Arizona. Only two huge turnovers by Carson Palmer when

the defense at last resembled the fierce unit Seahawks fans expect kept Pete Carroll's guys in the game. When that defense isn't making big plays, the two-time defending conference champs are mediocre.

The offense can't bail them out, either, because the line has been a sieve, forcing Russell Wilson to scramble for safety, not creativity. Graham, who many thought would be the most impactful player transaction of the off-season, has not been a huge difference maker.

"The margin of error is really small," Seahawks tackle Russell Okung said, "and you only get a certain amount of times to do what you really need to do."

Seattle's time is running out, and it needs an immediate change in fortune to get in the wild-card mix. Remember, though, that the Seahawks have been in such situations before and rallied. Beginning next week against San Francisco, they must show they are capable of doing so again.

INDIANAPOLIS (4-5): It's embarrassing, even depressing, that despite a wretched first half of the season, the Colts are in control of the AFC South. Because they regularly beat everyone in the NFL's weakest division, their path to the playoffs is clear.

A season-saving win over Denver before going on their bye brought everyone in Indy off the ledge. Then, of course, it was revealed that Luck will be sidelined by an assortment of ailments, turning the reins to Matt Hasselbeck.

That's far less of a problem than the Colts' defense; Hasselbeck won two earlier starts this season and might be the most capable backup QB in the league.

For Indy to become a valid player down the stretch and possibly into January, it must figure out how to stop people. With three division games remaining, reaching the eight wins that figures to take the AFC South crown seems reasonable.

Beyond that, the Colts might be out of, uh, luck.

Edelman

Continued from B1

said. "Because you want to have a lot of confidence in the things that you're doing."

Edelman has caught 197 passes for 2,028 yards over the past two seasons, and was on pace for a 1,000-yard season

when he left Sunday's game. His loss comes a week after running back Dion Lewis was knocked out for the season with a torn ACL.

The Patriots have also been shuffling their offensive line to cover for injuries to Sebastian Vollmer, Marcus Cannon, Bryan Stork, Nate Solder and Ryan Wendell.

"Every team deals with injuries," Brady said on WEEI. "We've been pretty banged up. Hopefully at some point we can get some guys back."

Without Edelman, Brady will have to rely on Brandon LaFell and Danny Amendola. Keshawn Martin could become available when he recovers from a hamstring injury that has kept him

out since Week 6.

"There's nothing that's really seamless when you lose a great player," Brady said. "When it's someone that's been the leading receiver on your team for multiple years and you lose them, it's not like you go, 'OK, well, let just put someone else in.' He's too good of a player for that."

The Newport Daily News

RETAIL & CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The Newport Daily News will not be publishing on Thursday, November 26, 2015

DAY OF INSERTION	FOR PROOF	NO PROOF
Fri., Nov. 27	Mon., Nov. 23	Tues., Nov. 24
Sat., Nov. 28	Mon., Nov. 23	Tues., Nov. 24
Mon., Nov. 30	Wed., Nov. 25, Noon	Wed., Nov. 25, 5 pm

The Ocean State Independent will not be published on Thursday, November 26, 2015;
The Holiday Gift Guide will be published in its place on Wednesday, November 25.

Classified Line Ad Deadlines for Friday, Nov. 27
Place ad Wednesday, Nov. 25 by 4 pm.

Legal Ads for Friday, Nov. 27
Place ad by Tuesday, Nov. 24 by 4pm

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

FLYING DRAGONS

St. George's dominates in its first New England prep school bowl game



Louis Walker Photography

Above, St. George's players, from left, Isaac McCray, C.J. Holcombe and Jay Cunningham are joyous and triumphant on Friday night after beating Pingree 40-12 in the Kevin Fleming Bowl at Gaudet Middle School in Middletown. At right, Dragons coach John Mackay gets a Gatorade bath after the victory. St. George's finished the season 9-0.

By Steve Rogers
Staff writer

MIDDLETOWN — A week after assuring its first Independent School League championship in 34 years with a win over its biggest rival, the St. George's School football team forced school archivists to dig deeper into the past.

ST. GEORGE'S 40,
PINGREE 12

Behind Isaac McCray's three touchdowns and 203 rushing yards, back-up quarterback Dave LaMountain's three touchdown passes — including two to C.J. Holcombe — and a defense that forced five turnovers, the Dragons defeated Pingree 40-12 on Friday night at Gaudet Middle School in the New England Prep School Athletic Conference's Kevin Fleming Bowl.

The win, St. George's first in a prep school bowl game, enabled the Dragons to complete the season with a perfect 9-0 record — the first time in 64 years a St. George's squad has gone undefeated.

"We made history," McCray said. "It's an unbelievable feeling right now. No words can describe it. We worked hard all season, and we're finally able to come out on top. We had a lot of doubters, but we were able to prove them wrong."

"It hasn't hit me yet," St. George's coach John Mackay said as he shivered a bit from a post-game Gatorade bath. "The whole thing has been a blur. Even this week, our kids were in exams all week. The high from (beating rival) Middlesex, to come back and play this way is just awesome."

LaMountain, normally a receiver, was forced into the starting quarterback role

after starter Kody Greenhalgh suffered a concussion at practice earlier in the week. LaMountain tossed scoring strikes of 38 and 49 yards, as well as a 2-point conversion pass, to CJ Holcombe, and hit Henry Savage on an 11-yard TD pass. LaMountain, who also ran for 83 yards, finished 8-for-16 passing for 151 yards, and Holcombe had four catches for 102 yards.

"I feel bad for Kody, but we have every bit of confidence in Dave," Mackay said. "He did this one time earlier this season when Kody couldn't play."

"It's not that we missed a beat, because Kody is a special athlete. Dave is a remarkable football player with a great IQ. He knows exactly what to do, all the plays, whether he's playing receiver or wherever he's playing."

DRAGONS B3

ST. RAPHAEL 27, ROGERS 14

Saints avenge regular-season defeat

The top-seeded Vikings take an early edge, but can't keep the momentum as they are ousted from the playoffs.

By Josh Krueger
Staff writer

NEWPORT — It likely wasn't an easy message to deliver, or receive, but it was an important one, nonetheless. After his team's post-season came to an end, Rogers High School football coach Frank Newsome told his team to keep their heads up.

"We told our kids to walk out with your back straight and your head high, because we had a great year," Newsome said. "One team's going

to end up happy. You wish it's you, but sometimes it isn't."

This year, that team isn't Rogers. The Vikings lost 27-14 to St. Raphael in a Division II semifinal game Friday night at Toppa Field. The Saints will face Moses Brown, a 13-0 winner over Shea on Friday, in the Super Bowl on Dec. 6 at Cranston Stadium.

Rogers will wrap up its season on Thanksgiving, at home against Tiverton.

St. Raphael junior quarterback Xavier Torres completed 10 of 15 passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns.

Twice in the game, Rogers, the No. 1 seed from II-A, held a lead, but both times the Saints, seeded No. 3 in II-A, took it back pretty quickly.

After Issac Garcia's 1-yard touchdown run

and Hunter Hansen's extra point made it 7-6 with 13 seconds left in the first quarter, St. Raphael senior running back Tunde Akinjobi returned the short kickoff 60 yards for the go-ahead score.

"We were trying to kick it away from (Kaleel Harley), but we just didn't execute it," Newsome said of the short kickoff. "I believe every kid ran right by (Akinjobi), and after you get some momentum and go up, you give it right back, so we could never sustain anything momentum-wise."

Garcia's second touchdown, a 3-yarder with a little more than two minutes left in the half, put the Vikings up 14-12. But St. Ray's ran an effective 2-minute drill that produced a

ROGERS B3

Rogers players react to Friday night's 27-14 loss to St. Raphael at Toppa Field in Newport.

Dave Hansen | Staff photographer



COLLEGE FOOTBALL: SALVE REGINA 42, HUSSON 39

Seahawks come through with touchdown in final minute

Daily News staff

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — What started out as an offensive shootout turned into a defensive stalemate.

In the end, though, Salve Regina scored the final touchdown with 58 seconds to go, lifting the Seahawks to a 42-39 victory over Husson in the ECAC Clayton Chapman Bowl on Friday afternoon at Central Connecticut

State University.

Quarterback Brandan Basil connected with Most Outstanding Player Alex Hulme on a 4-yard fade in the end zone to Salve for good. Connor Russo then cemented the victory when he intercepted Husson quarterback Cory Brandon at midfield.

The Seahawks, who were denied the New England Football Conference championship with a loss to Western

New England last week, finish the season with a record of 8-2. The eight wins are the most in a season under third-year coach Kevin Gilmartin and the most since Salve went 9-2 in 2012.

"To have to rebound and come back is an emotional thing," Seahawks coach Kevin Gilmartin said. "Whenever you have a chance to win the last game of the season, it's always a major positive. We're walking away with a

championship ring, and that's a good thing."

Basil was 25-for-49 passing for 421 yards and five touchdowns and two interceptions, while Hulme hauled in 11 passes for 155 yards and three scores. Derrick Sarfo-Darko had seven catches for a game-high 188 yards, and fullback James Dawson scored on a 63-yard catch, his only grab of the game.

"They had a great run defense, and that's what they did all year, so it became a perimeter game for us," Gilmartin said. "We had to throw the ball, and the guys stepped up."

After taking a 14-13 lead late in the first quarter, Salve trailed 25-14, 33-21 and 39-28 before scoring the final 14 points of the game.

SEAHAWKS B3

SPORTS

COLLEGE
ROUNDUPSalve Regina names
new athletic director

Salve Regina University has a new athletic director.

Starting Jan. 11, **Jody Mooradian** will take over the position previously held by **Colin Sullivan**, who left the school in June for Brown University, where he is the Deputy Director of Athletics.

Mooradian comes from Boston College, where she is the senior associate athletics director/senior woman administrator. In her 12 years at BC, she helped manage the athletics program, which has 750 student-athletes in 31 sports, and serves as a member of the senior management team for the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Athletic Program in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"We are excited to welcome Jody Mooradian to Salve Regina," **Barbara LoMonaco**, vice president for student affairs at Salve, said in a press release. "Her breadth and depth of experience in college athletics and her student-centered approach will be incredible assets to the athletics department."

Mooradian has a juris doctorate from Widener University (Delaware School of Law) and a bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire.

A former New Hampshire State Representative, she worked as in-house counsel for a major insurance company and as a litigator in a large private firm before shifting her career focus to college athletics.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the Salve Regina family," Mooradian said in the release. "Salve Regina offers such a rich mix of academics, service and student formation. I was able to meet with many of the students, staff and coaches, and know that it's a special place."

"I am looking forward to building upon the current success and reaching new levels of achievement."

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Norwich 3, Salve Regina 0

Norwich scored three second-period goals to beat Salve Regina 3-0 on Friday in Northfield, Vt.

Salve goaltender **Colleen Marcik** stopped 28 shots, but the Seahawks fell to 4-2, while Norwich improved to 5-2.

Seahawks

Continued from B1

Hulme pulled the Seahawks to within 39-35 with a 1-yard TD catch late in the third quarter.

"You have to be willing to take a punch and keep coming back," Gilmartin said.

Both offenses went cold for much of the final period until Salve drove into Husson territory late in the game. From the 8-yard line, the Seahawks had a first-and-goal opportunity, but came up empty on their first three downs.

On fourth down, Basil looked to Hulme on the outside, and the flag appeared, though, and Salve was given a new set of downs after a pass interference call.

"(Hulme) gave a jab-step inside, and the kid latched onto him right away. It was blatant," Gilmartin said. "I'm sure it was a tough pill to swallow for them, but (the ref) threw the flag right away."

On second down and the clock running under a minute, Basil and Hulme connected for the game-winner.

The Eagles actually held a 505-503 edge in yards from scrimmage, with running back John Smith totaling 276 yards on 34 carries. Brandon passed for three scores, but his one interception was costly.

Ethan Gamble had 16 total tackles, two sacks and a forced fumble.

"That's a heck of a physical performance," Gilmartin said of Gamble.

Danny Ives was in on 13 tackles and recovered a fumble. Joe Cuccia had 10 tackles.

COMING EVENTS

TODAY

COLLEGES

Men's basketball

Lesley at Salve Regina, 3 p.m.

Women's basketball

Fitchburg State at Salve Regina, 1 p.m.

Men's hockey

Western New England at Salve Regina, 2:35 p.m.

Women's hockey

Salve Regina at Castleton, 3 p.m.

'We started from the end of last season. We started working to achieve what we did this season.'

St. George's running back Isaac McCray



Louis Walker Photography

St. George's quarterback Dave LaMountain races past a host of Pingree defenders on Friday night at Gaudet Middle School in Middletown.

Dragons

Continued from B1

The St. George's defense, which last year had a tendency to allow as many — or more — points as the offense scored, shut down a formidable offense in Pingree (7-3). The Highlanders, from South Hamilton, Mass., entered the game scoring an average of 42 points per outing.

But the Dragons got a pair of interceptions from Jim Stevens, one from Odom Sam and a blocked extra-point try from Connor Fitzgerald in the first half. Fitzgerald finished with somewhat of a hat trick when he picked off a pass and recovered a fumble in the second half. And Hull Collins sacked Pingree quarterback Griffin Beal to bring an end to another fruitless offensive series.

"This is one of the highest scoring offenses in NEPSAC, and to be able to keep them to 12 points, it's incredible," Fitzgerald said. "It's something we've been working on this year, and we definitely improved."

"Everyone stepped up and did their part from D-backs to D-line and linebackers. We put it together. I can't ask for anything more than that."

The game began as if it would be a shootout. Pingree got runs of 32 and 41 yards from Beal to move the ball to the Dragons 10-yard line. But Stevens stepped in and made the first of his two picks to thwart the drive. McCray then broke free on an 80-yard TD run on St. George's second play from scrimmage. Truckie Greenhouse added the extra point kick for a 7-0 lead.

It took the Highlanders just five plays

to score when Beal, who finished with 168 rushing yards, ran in from 7 yards out less than two minutes after McCray scored. Fitzgerald blocked the extra point, keeping the Dragons in front.

Savage caught his TD pass early in the second quarter and the Dragons defense went to work, denying Pingree the rest of the half.

"Defense stepped up," McCray said.

"If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have won this game. You know the saying, 'Offense wins games but defense wins championships.' That's what we did. We played great defense."

Holcombe ran under LaMountain's 49-yard scoring toss to start the second half, then Fitzgerald recovered a fumble that led to McCray's first of two 3-yard touchdown bursts. Fitzgerald made his interception off a tipped ball, and

McCray scored again early in the fourth quarter as the lead climbed to 34-6.

A native of New York City, Holcombe snared his second TD pass with just over three minutes left before Justin Assad hauled in a 15-yard touchdown pass from Beal with 1:47 remaining. The Dragons then ran out the clock, and the undefeated season officially was in the books.

"That's what our goal was from the start," McCray said. "We had 11 or 12 returning seniors, and our goal was to go undefeated because we knew we had a lot of skill position players coming back, a lot of key players coming back."

"We started from the end of last season. We started working to achieve what we did this season."

Sports@NewportRI.com



Dave Hansen | Staff photographer

Senior lineman Chris Straka, left, of Rogers attempts to catch St. Raphael running back Tunde Akinjobi on Friday night at Toppa Field in Newport.

Rogers

Continued from B1

touchdown with three seconds left. The visitors never trailed again.

"The great thing about our offense is we can kick into that no-huddle anytime we want to," St. Ray's coach Michael Sassi said. "We thrive on it when we get into that situation. It's as good a no-huddle offense as we've had in my 18 years."

Garcia finished with 141 yards on 33 carries and also caught two passes for 42 yards. That put the Vikings at the St. Raphael 13-yard line late in the third quarter. A Garcia run got them down to the 7, but the drive stalled from there.

Quarterback Tim Pratt had an open Kieve Nance in the end zone on fourth down, but Nance got his feet tangled up with the St. Raphael defender and fell just as the pass arrived. He still nearly came up with it, but officials ruled the ball hit the ground.

"That was a tough drive to leave with nothing," Newsome said. "They played great defense, you've got to give them credit. We had our shot, we just didn't do it. ... When we had our shots, we didn't capitalize on them."

"They got the breaks, and sometimes you don't get the breaks and

the other team gets the breaks."

One of those breaks was on St. Ray's final possession of the first half. Torres was hit and fumbled, but senior lineman Joshua Johnson picked up the ball and ran 12 yards for a first down to the Rogers 13. Two plays later, the Saints took a 20-14 lead.

"When we played Rogers early in the season (a 14-6 Rogers win), we made a lot of mistakes in that game, and we had a big meeting after that game," Sassi said of the Oct. 10 contest in Pawtucket. "We needed to come together as a team, because we felt we weren't playing as a team at that point. We felt like we didn't have any leadership that was stepping up. Since we had that meeting, we haven't lost."

The Vikings didn't lose a league game until the final week of the regular season. They bounced back to beat Tolman in the quarterfinals, but their playoff run ended a week later.

"Even if you do things right, you're never guaranteed you're going to win. We felt like we did it right all year long," Newsome said. "Hopefully the young guys were paying attention, that it's hard to get here, it's hard to get past this hurdle. But I'm proud of the kids."

Kruger@NewportRI.com

PRO FOOTBALL: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Brady can pass,
but will he run?

The Pats quarterback says he won't delve into politics, but that has not stopped fans from daydreaming.

BOSTON (AP) — Never mind what Tom Brady says about making a play for the White House. Fans are clinging to the minuscule odds he'll reconsider the ultimate running game someday.

For a cover story, GQ magazine asked its 2015 Man of the Year if he'd ever consider a run for the White House — or at least for governor of Massachusetts.

"There is a 0.000 chance of me ever wanting to do that," Brady said.

"I just think that no matter what you'd say or what you'd do, you'd be in a position where — you know, you're politicking. You know? ... I think in politics, half the people are gonna like you and half the people are not gonna like you, no matter what you do or what you say," he said.

None of which has stopped New England fans from daydreaming.

On talk radio and social media, Patriots Nation has been indulging in a little fantasy football, politics edition. Fans are imagining the dimple-chinned QB trading the oval ball for the Oval Office — with First Lady Gisele Bundchen as a bonus.

It's all part of a growing heap of hometown hubris surrounding the defending NFL champions and their three-time Super Bowl MVP, who have posted a 9-0 record so far this season.

"I'll appreciate it when Tom Brady is president of the entire world," said fan Andrew O'Donnell.

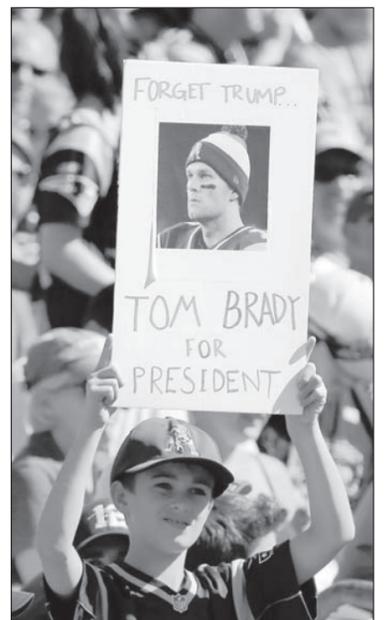
Others, who have been bringing "Brady for President" signs to games for years, point to a kind of precedence: If Ronald Reagan could turn his Hollywood celebrity into some formidable political capital, why not Tom Terrific?

Not for nothing, but Brady now shares GQ Man of the Year distinction with President Barack Obama.

"He certainly has name recognition, which is the first and most critical part of what you need to run for office," said Roger Abrams, an expert on sports and law at Northeastern University and author of the book "Playing Tough: The World of Sports and Politics."

"And he is, to many people, a true hero — maybe not a John McCain kind of hero, but a hero, nonetheless — standing up to the ogre NFL and being the greatest quarterback of all time," Abrams said.

If — and, admittedly, it's a huge if — Brady ever did change his mind about politics, it's a safe bet he'd run as a conservative. Asked in September if he thought Republican front-runner Donald Trump



Associated Press

A young Patriots fans let his feelings be known about what Tom Brady should do after he retires.

has what it takes to win the presidency, Brady told reporters: "I hope so. It would be great."

Brady says Trump is a longtime friend and golf partner, and Trump regularly crows about TB12 "the winner" at campaign stops around New England.

In past interviews, Brady has expressed disgust at partisan politics and gridlock.

"I haven't paid attention to politics in a long time," Brady said in September while clarifying his comments on Trump. "It's actually not something that I really even enjoy. It's way off my radar."

Detractors contend the "Deflategate" scandal disqualifies Brady. Some sarcastically suggest it makes him the perfect politician: evasive and sneaky.

And some Patriots fans — especially in liberal-leaning New England — think Brady's better off sticking to football.

"There's a big difference between being a good leader in sports and being a political leader," said Arianne Tidwell, 24, a technology consultant from Charlestown, Mass.

Matthew Leathers, 41, of East Greenwich, R.I., agrees.

"There's a far cry between being a quarterback on Sundays and being an executive branch leader. JFK was good at sports, but he was also good at government," Leathers said. Leathers added, "That said, (Brady) would probably win."