

GW BOUNCES BACK PATRIOTS CRUISE PAST NITRO 42-7

Publication: THE CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Published: Saturday, September 12, 2009

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Nitro faced the unenviable task of not only having to play without its starting quarterback but also facing a George Washington team coming off a disappointing loss to South Charleston last week.

The Patriots certainly took their frustrations out on the Wildcats, rolling up 511 total yards of offense and playing stifling defense in a 42-7 rout of the Wildcats Friday night at Underwood Field in **Nitro**.

"Coach [Steve Edwards] really inspired and challenged us to come out and play GW football on offense and defense, and that's what the guys did," said Patriots running back Ryan Switzer.

The Wildcats were without starting quarterback Mark Chandler, who was suspended for one game after receiving two personal-foul penalties and being ejected in last week's loss to Hurricane.

Without its senior standout signal-caller, the Wildcat offense struggled as backup quarterback Zach Cloxton was just 3-for-17 passing for minus-3 yards. Christopher Moody relieved Cloxton and hit 1-of-2 passes for 5 yards, giving the Wildcats a total of 2 yards passing on 19 attempts.

"We did a nice job defensively, and I'm finding some guys there," said Edwards. "I think Shawny Badger did a fantastic job at the corner position. It was the first time we gave him a start. He's a good find for us and did a great job there and made some nice hits."

Meanwhile, the GW offense was hitting on all cylinders as the Patriots scored on their first five possessions of the first half, outgaining the Wildcats 340-38 and leading 35-0 at halftime.

Switzer, who fumbled twice in the South Charleston loss last week, rebounded in a big way, rushing for 133 yards on 10 carries, including two touchdowns.

Switzer, a freshman, opened the scoring with a 20-yard TD run on GW's first possession of the game and added a 59-yard TD run later in the half. At halftime, Switzer had rushed for 130 yards on nine carries.

"You've got to put things like that behind you," Switzer said of the loss to SC. "Sure, any time you lose to South Charleston it's tough, especially on your home field, but I was really proud of how our team came back, responded and just waxed [**Nitro**]."

To go with Switzer's performance, Felix Mollett gained 124 yards on 17 carries.

"They're good players," Edwards said of Mollett and Switzer. "I don't understand Felix not getting the respect he deserves. He's a doggone good running back. It doesn't bother him, he just continues to come out and work hard. And Ryan is a very good young talent."

"That's a tandem we've got," Switzer said. "We've got the best rushing team in the state, there's no doubt. Felix runs hard every time, and I'm there to give him a break when he gets winded. It worked out well tonight."

Nitro's lone score came with 5:20 remaining in the game on an 11-yard run by sophomore Michael Hall, who led the team with 61 yards rushing on 14 attempts. Fifty of his yards came in the second half, 33 in the fourth quarter.