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Ripley routs Nitro, remains unbeaten

By [Mike Ruben](#)

For the Saturday Gazette-Mail

Seth Hamrick's comeback made for an unpleasant homecoming for Nitro.

After sitting out last week's game to allow injuries time to heal, Ripley's senior running back turned in his most impressive game of the season to lead the unbeaten Vikings to a 47-7 win at Underwood Field.

Hamrick, who transferred a year ago from Riverside, finished with 168 yards on 16 carries and scored three touchdowns. He set the tone for the game by scoring on a 70-yard run on Ripley's first offensive play, then capped Ripley's first possession of the second half by scoring on a pass from Scotty Ullom that covered 37 yards. Hamrick added a 7-yard TD midway through the third quarter.

Ripley coach Jimmy Frashier said the Vikings coaching staff was anticipating a big game from Hamrick.

"Watching him in practice, we have been waiting for a game like this," said Frashier. "He was running with a purpose this week. He didn't like being on the sidelines last week [a Ripley win at Lincoln County]."

Hamrick's outburst was the first 100-yard game for a Viking running back this season. With the first half played in a steady rain, Ripley (5-0, ranked No. 5 in Class AAA) overcame four lost fumbles to rush for a season-best 318 yards in the Mountain State Athletic Conference game.

Adam Rutter also ran for a pair of touchdowns for Ripley. The Vikings defense, which has yet to allow a score in the first three quarters all season, got on the scoreboard with a pick-six interception by Luke Parsons.

Nitro's offense was led by Michael Hall with 107 rushing yards on 12 carries. Quarterback Bodie Johnson completed 6-of-23 passes for 32 yards. Alex Taylor scored the Wildcat touchdown on a 2-yard run with 6:25 left in the game.

Nitro (0-5) lost three of nine fumbles and suffered two interceptions.

Ripley will face its biggest challenge of the season next Friday at South Charleston. Nitro visits Lincoln County the same night.