

October 10, 2009

## Princeton heads home with win over Nitro

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Charleston Gazette

Its previous two trips this season to Kanawha County have not been so welcome for Princeton, as it lost 42-10 to Capital and 24-21 to George Washington, missing a field goal in the waning seconds that would have tied the game.

But the trip back to Princeton this time will be a much happier one.

Tevin Allen rushed for 182 yards and two touchdowns as Princeton cruised to a 46-6 victory at Nitro Friday night.

"Everything started with my offensive line," Allen said. "They opened up some big holes for me and I was able to go through the holes explosive and get yards."

Allen came into the game with the fourth-most rushing yards in the MSAC (550 yards) and five touchdowns.

"Tevin has paid his dues," said Princeton coach Ted Spadaro. "Last year, he took a beating. He only got to play five [full] games last year and still had close to 600 yards, so every yard he gets I am proud of him. I am proud of the other kids, but more so for him since he came back from adversity and still runs hard. If you give him a crack, he will go through it."

Last year, Allen suffered a stress fracture in his ankle that forced him to miss much of the season.

Tre' Hopkins also contributed with 101 rushing yards on four carries and two touchdowns for the Tigers (2-4).

It didn't take the Tigers long score as they used a 55-yard scamper from Allen on the third play of the game to set up a 12-yard touchdown by Hopkins, capping a five-play, 63-yard drive.

The Tigers would add a 23-yard field goal by Travis Tabor and 10-yard touchdown run by Allen, which was set up by a Nitro fumble on its own 25-yard line and a personal foul call assessed after the fumble. Allen scored two plays later. At that point, the Tigers led 17-0 and would take that lead to halftime.

At the half, Allen (with 119 rushing yards), had accumulated more yards than the entire Nitro offense at that point. Nitro (1-6) had 55 total yards of offense at the half.

For the game, the Tigers finished with 425 yards of total offense, which were all rushing yards. It only attempted six passes in the game and all fell incomplete. Nitro finished with just 78 net yards.

The second half didn't get much better for Nitro as it watched Princeton put up 23 straight points on a 25-yard touchdown run by Jerrell Powell, a safety by Jason Burgess, a 36-yard run by Allen and a 1-yard touchdown by Cameron Mallory.

Nitro would score its only points of the game on an 8-yard touchdown by Michael Hall. Hopkins added a late touchdown on a 75-yard run for the Tigers.

"The kids are beginning to believe in what we [the coaches] have been teaching them the last four or five weeks," Spadaro said. "We got a win against Graham last week. Of course, wins are like losses. They carry over. The kids came in with a lot of confidence."

Hall had 64 yards rushing and a touchdown to lead a young Nitro team. Of the 44 players on the roster, only six are seniors.

"Anytime you have a football team that has six seniors on it, then you know you are going to have some work to do," said Nitro assistant coach John Painter, who has taken over the coaching duties since coach Bob Gobel suffered a leg injury during practice last month. "Some of the seniors that are playing really didn't have much Friday night experience, so they have had to step up, too."

"When you have an inexperienced football team, you have to play hard. We know once we get that senior leadership and we play hard, then our football team will turn around and we will win some football games."