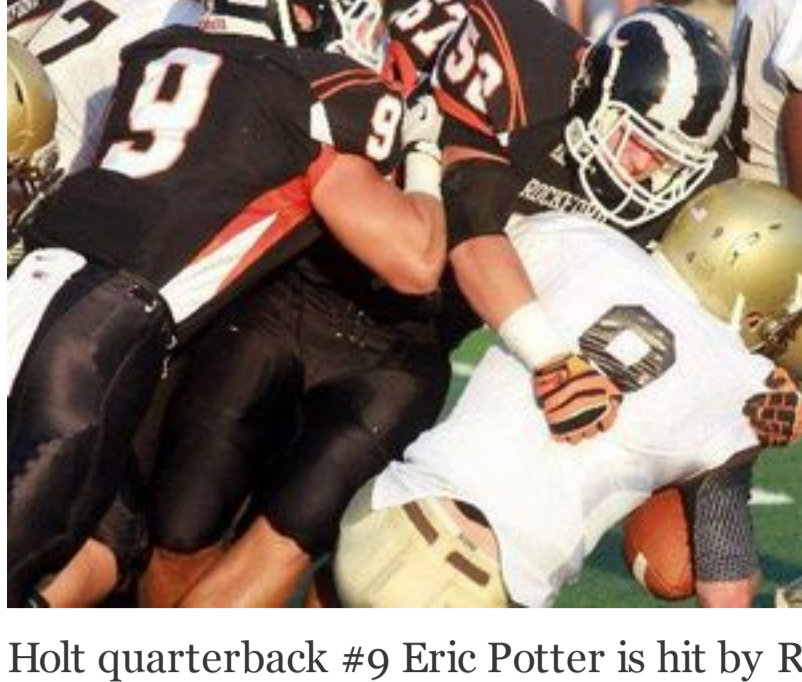




Week 2 football previews and predictions

Football

# Defense leads Rockford to 41-28 win over Holt



Holt quarterback #9 Eric Potter is hit by Rockford's #52 Gabe Baumann and #9 Randy Garvin in the first half of their game at Rockford High School Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. Rockford won 41-28.

By Kelly Hill | [grsports@mlive.com](mailto:grsports@mlive.com)  
on September 06, 2013 11:39 p.m.

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ROCKFORD, MI – While spectacular at times, and less than spectacular at other points, the Rockford defense played well enough Friday night to lead the Rams to a 41-28 victory over the visiting Holt Rams.

Four interceptions and two fumble recoveries, one returned for a touchdown, is a good night for any defense. And Rockford coach Ralph Munger acknowledged the Rams' effort "at times," but he also noted that the Rams' defense surrendered three TD passes of 25 yards or longer, and also gave up a 23-yard TD run.

Rockford's defense scored the game's first points less than two minutes into the contest when sophomore defensive back Tyler Bradfield picked up a fumble and raced 27 yards to the end zone. Senior lineman Ryan Baumann also recovered a first quarter fumble while senior defensive back Josh Olson intercepted a pair of passes just six plays apart midway through the second quarter.

"It was a total team effort but we still have to contain the quarterback and stay on our receivers," Olson said. "We gave up a couple of deeps passes over us tonight."

"Our defense plays as a team," he said. "Everyone does their job."

It was the first game of Olson's career that he intercepted two passes.

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After a Quinn Nordin field goal gave Rockford a 10-0 lead at the end of the first quarter, Holt quarterback Eric Potter threw his first of three TD passes, this one a 25-yard strike to senior Nick Bigelow.

Olson's two picks followed, the second preventing a Holt TD and leading to a 29-yard Rockford TD run by senior Darian Vaughn two plays later. The teams traded TDs to open the third quarter, but Rockford went up 31-14 in the final minute of the third frame on an 18-yard run by quarterback Austin McKellar.

A 31-yard TD run by CJ Farmer on the first play of the first quarter made it 37-14, but Potter responded with an 80-yard TD pass to senior Romeell Dozier on the next play.

"As in every high school game, there are a lot of things that don't make you overly happy," Munger said.

"Our defense was spectacular at times, but wow, wow," he said with a deep sigh. "The secondary played extremely well, at times, but they also got beat on a couple of passes. Our defensive line had a decent surge, but there are letdowns. We have to find that all-out effort, all of the time. That is what we are in search of. We are a young team and these are some growing pains. Next week we will be better."

The Rams will have to be better as they play the Muskegon Big Reds next week.

"In their division, they will win the state championship," Munger said of the Big Reds, just two games into the season. "We have to do everything we can to prepare for an exciting night."

Olson acknowledged that if they are to beat Muskegon, they are going to have to play better than they did Friday night.

"We have to play even better than we did tonight," he said. "We have to prepare all week and know our responsibilities."

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