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Football

Muskegon football rolls past Rockford, 45-0, in dominating performance in MLive/Chronicle Game of the Week

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MUSKEGON, MI – It took a quarter for Muskegon’s offense to get going.

The defense didn’t have that problem.

Deshaun Thrower (MLive.com)

The Big Reds turned in a stout defensive effort, got a big second quarter and even bigger performance from quarterback Deshaun Thrower en route to a 45-0 victory against Rockford in the MLive/Muskegon Chronicle Game of the Week.

The battle of state-ranked teams turned into a running clock by the third quarter Friday night at a packed Hackley Stadium.

Thrower ran for two touchdowns and threw for another to lead the Big Reds offense that was stopped by penalties early in the game.

The win lifts Muskegon’s record to 3-0 heading into next week’s clash at undefeated Lowell. Rockford, which didn’t complete a pass until the final play of the game, falls to 2-1.

Muskegon’s physical defense limited Rockford to two first downs in the first half, one via penalty, and helped set up the offense with a fumble recovery by Jacob Sims.

After a scoreless first quarter, Muskegon’s offense got on the board first on a 36-yard field goal by Adrian Briseno and a pair of touchdown passes before halftime.

Muskegon went to its bag of tricks and scored on a 28-yard pass from slot receiver John Hall to Joeviar Kennedy on a 3rd-and-19 play with 5:39 remaining in the second quarter.

Rockford fumbled on the first play after the kickoff and Sims recovered on the Rams’ 25. On a third-and-goal play from the 13, Thrower connected with Austin Foster from 13 yards out to make it 17-0 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Muskegon took the opening kickoff and went 65 yards. Thrower had a 40-yard run on a keeper and capped the drive with an 8-yard run up the middle to make it 24-0.

After a three-and-out for Rockford, Muskegon scored in three plays, capped by Thrower’s 40-yard run at the 8:02 mark.

Rockford’s defense lost inside linebacker Randy Garvin to an injury in the first half and its offense couldn’t get anything going. The Rams’ run game was bottled up the middle by the teeth of the Big Reds’ defense.

Muskegon made it 38-0 late in the third quarter on a 5-yard touchdown run by fullback Javauntae Thomas.

Rockford’s best scoring chance ended with a blocked 42-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

Backup quarterback Shawn Pfenning closed out the scoring for Muskegon with a 5-yard run with 2:32 to play.

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