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Football

Rockford claims OK Red crown with 13-7 win over East Kentwood



By Kelly Hill | grsports@mlive.com
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10/25 - 7:00 PM Football	Final
East Kentwood	7
Rockford	13

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Rockford quarterback Chase Hankins fires a pass during the Rams 13-7 win over East Kentwood on Friday, Oct. 25. The victory clinched the OK Red championship for Rockford.

(Andrew Kuhn | The Grand Rapids Press/MLive.com)

ROCKFORD, MI – Rockford coach Ralph Munger wants more good times from his Rams. East Kentwood coach Ryan Gallogly wants at least one more good time with his Falcons.

Munger saw some great moments Friday night as his Rams clinched the OK Red championship by edging East Kentwood 13-7 in the conference and regular season finale. Munger wants more of those moments in the playoffs.

Gallogly wants at least one more shot with the Falcons, but he will have to wait and see if their 5-4 record will be good enough to earn a playoff berth.

“At times tonight we ran the ball very well,” Munger said. “At other times we passed the

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ball very well, and at other times, we played super, super defense. We have to work for more of those times.”

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Gallogly just hopes his Falcons can work next week.

“This was probably the closest we have been this season, as a team,” he said. “Maybe we’ll get lucky and we’ll be able to do this again next week.”

Rockford (8-1 overall, 5-0 in the Red) took the game's opening kickoff and marched 65 yards in seven plays, the drive culminating in a one-yard touchdown run by senior quarterback Chase Hankins. Sophomore kicker Quinn Nordin gave the Rams a 13-0 halftime lead with a 31-yard field goal in the first minute of the second quarter and a 32-yard field goal in the final minute of the frame.

“We did an awesome job,” Munger said. “We are still alive and we're still kicking. We played extremely well in spots tonight. Now we have an opportunity to clean some things up. Our kicking game is strong, which is always good, and I was pleased with our effort, overall.”

East Kentwood (5-4, 3-2) scored the second half's only points with 2:30 left in the third quarter when junior Michael Ivy slipped into the endzone from 11 yards out. The Falcons had a chance to take the lead early in the fourth quarter when they had fourth-down-and-goal with the ball at the Rams' 4-yard line. Gallogly called a timeout before the fourth-down play.

“How many chances do you get in a game like this?” Gallogly said. “We felt that we could knock in the three there, but it has been a while since we won one of these and we wanted to win it. We could have cut it to 13-10 there, but then if they go on an eight-minute drive we're going to look back and say, 'Hey, we were three yards away from winning it.' The guys wanted to go for it and we did.”

A pass from junior quarterback Kyle Friberg to senior wide receiver Colin Calloway was broken up at the goal line.

“We’ll second guess that call for the next 30 years, but we try to utilize our go-to guy a lot in isolation,” Gallogly said. “This was a great football game, that’s why it was a championship game.”

Rockford finished the game with 306 total yards of offense, 167 on the ground and 139 in the air. East Kentwood finished with 279 total offensive yards, 184 rushing and 95 passing.

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