



See every high school football playoff score and schedule in Michigan

Football

Hudsonville defense stifles Rockford, Eagles win 19-14

Mason Opple, shown in a game earlier this year, led Hudsonville to a 19-14 win over Rockford in a second round playoff game on Friday, Nov. 8.

By Kelly Hill | grsports@mlive.com
on November 08, 2013 10:52 p.m.

[View/Post Comments](#)

11/08 - 7:00 PM Football	Final
Hudsonville	19
Rockford	14

[Complete Box Score »](#)

ROCKFORD, MI – Defense may win championships, but a little offense sure helps.

Hudsonville's Curt Doornbos battles for extra yardage as Rockford's Ethan LaCourt (4) and Trevor Coughlin (2) close in.
(ADVANCE photo by KAREN WAITE)

Rockford's defense, just as it did Friday in a district final against Hudsonville, kept the Rams in multiple games this fall but sooner or later Rockford's lack of offense was going to cost the Rams.

Sooner happened Friday night.

Hudsonville's defense held Rockford scoreless in the second half while an offense powered by junior quarterback Mason Opple and junior running back Kyle Toth ran by the Rams, 19-14.

Hudsonville (8-3) limited Rockford to just 75 total yards of offense in advancing to play Flint Carmen-Ainsworth in the Division 1 state quarterfinals. The Eagles allowed only one completed pass, a play that which went for 33 of Rockford's 75 yards. Junior Chris Bell was Rockford's leading rusher, with 28 yards on 14 carries.

Opple, meanwhile, rushed for 77 yards on 26 carries while Toth carried the ball 14 times for 67 yards. Opple also threw for 122 yards.

"It was a mindset," Opple said after the game. "Rockford is always a good team but at halftime we were only down a touchdown (14-7) and we knew we had a good team and that we would be able to do it. Rockford has one of the best defenses in the state, but this is awesome. It's great to be back."

A high Rockford snap in the shotgun formation led to Hudsonville's first score less than three minutes into the game as two plays after recovering the bounding ball at the seven-yard line, Opple scored for a 6-0 lead. Senior Harrison Deters added the extra point and the Eagles had successfully quieted the Rockford crowd.

The Rams (9-2) quickly gave their faithful something to be loud about as they scored on their next two possessions, senior linebacker-turned-running-back Brent Showers scored from two yards out with 3:30 left in the first quarter. Senior C.J. Farmer bowled in from a yard out with 53 seconds left in the opening frame.

Senior kicker Drake Strehl's second extra point would be the last point Hudsonville would allow.

"I am so proud of these guys for the way they were able to run the ball tonight," Hudsonville coach Dave Lidgard said. "The first time we played (Rockford) we weren't able to run the ball.

"Defensively we kept doing what we were doing, making them a little uncomfortable. Kevin Schuur, our defensive coordinator had them prepared so well. Offensively, we mixed it up more. I think we became a little predictable in the first half."

Hudsonville drew within a point at 5:43 of the third quarter when Toth bulled in from a yard out, but the extra point try failed to make it 14-13.

After the Eagles' defense held Rockford to a three-and-out, Hudsonville took their first, and what proved to be decisive, lead, with 1:29 left in the third quarter when Opple hooked up with sophomore Jared Blum on a 22-yard touchdown pass.

"This is a terrific thing," Lidgard said. "In the past year, we got after it and we have paid more attention to a lot of the little things. To have Hudsonville back playing good football again feels so good."

Toth sealed the Eagles win with an interception at the Eagles' 25 in the final two minutes of the game.

"I believe that the kids on the field tonight gave their absolute best," Rockford coach Ralph Munger said. "We played as hard as we could. Thanks to the seniors for their effort and thanks to the defense for a tremendous season and thanks to the guys on special teams for contributing heavily at times; and for the offensive guys, I appreciate them sticking with it the best they could."

Related Links: [Hudsonville Football](#) | [Rockford Football](#) | [Hudsonville](#) | [Rockford](#)

[View/Post Comments](#)

Related Stories

[O-K Red powers Rockford, Hudsonville meet with Division 1 district title at stake](#)

Three Grand Rapids area players to watch Friday: MLive guys discuss potential postseason game changers

Featured News

FOOTBALL
Introducing our 10 finalists for the 2013 Michigan High School Football Player of the Year award
Oct 28 | [Kyle Austin](#) | kyleaustin2@mlive.com

FOOTBALL
Player of the Year Top 10: Southfield star Lawrence Marshall finds comfort in football after losing father, grandfather
1 day ago | [Jared Purcell](#) | japurcell@mlive.com

BOYS WATER POLO, GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
MLive playoff coverage: Volleyball districts finals on tap this weekend
15 hours ago | [Dave McVety](#) | [MLive.com](#)

FOOTBALL
The MLive Crystal Ball: Predictions crew delivers in the first round - the second round should get tougher
1 day, 16 hours ago | [Dave McVety](#) | [MLive.com](#)

FOOTBALL
MLive weekly football rankings: See how our final 2013 rankings from around Michigan shaped up
4 days, 9 hours ago | [Dave McVety](#) | [MLive.com](#)

FOOTBALL
Final Michigan high school football poll rankings by The Associated Press - 10/29/13
Oct 29 | [Jared Purcell](#) | japurcell@mlive.com

Who's No. 1 in the Michigan coaches statewide rankings? New volleyball rankings are in
2 days, 10 hours ago | [Dave McVety](#) | [MLive.com](#)

FOOTBALL
MLive Game of the Week previews: The stakes just get bigger in round two of the football playoffs
2 days, 9 hours ago | [Dave McVety](#) | [MLive.com](#)

FOOTBALL
MLive Game of the Week statewide football poll: Wayland Union at Byron Center comes back to win second-round playoff vote
1 day, 11 hours ago | [Dave McVety](#) | [MLive.com](#)

FOOTBALL
MLive.com Game of the Week winners: Millington at Frankenmuth poll victory our only close race in round two playoff polls
3 days, 14 hours ago | [Dave McVety](#) | [MLive.com](#)

[See More Sports News »](#)

