

Closer to the Dome

Charlestown blanks Greensburg in regional to reach Class 3A football semistate

By MIKE RILEY
Evening News Sports Correspondent

GREENSBURG — "Destination Dome" is now one big step closer for the Charlestown High School football squad.

"Destination Dome," an obvious reference to the state finals, has been the theme for the Pirates all season.

Friday night at Greensburg's Shriver Field, Charlestown took a giant step toward going to the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis for the state championship game on Nov. 24. The Pirates crushed Greensburg in the Class 3A regional by the score of 37-0.

The win enables Charlestown, now 12-0, to advance to next week's semistate. The Pirates' opponent in the game, to be played next Friday at Charlestown's Dutch Reis Field, will be Indianapolis Roncalli (9-3). Roncalli, the defending Class 3A state champ, advanced with a 21-3 win over New Palestine Friday.

As usual, the fourth-ranked Pirates' main man was senior Richard Lanham. Lanham, who came into the Greensburg game as the state's fourth leading rusher, finished the night with 257 yards on 32 carries to raise his season yardage to 1,925.

Lanham, also ranked fourth in scoring this week in Indiana, raised his total for the year to 202 points as he scored three touchdowns on runs of one, three, and 61 yards and added

three two-point conversion runs.

"Don't ask me to start naming names," said Charlestown Coach John Mastin afterwards. "There are too many of them."

But one name that Mastin did bring up was senior Jim Cook.

"Cook is one of the best blocking backs in the state. I sure hope some colleges are taking a look at him," said the coach.

In addition to being of service to the Charlestown offense, Cook also had two interceptions off of Greensburg quarterback Spider Storie. On one of them, Greensburg (5-7) had advanced to Charlestown's 15-yard line when Cook picked off a pass at the goal line.

Late in the first quarter, Charlestown scored first on a 36-yard run by Chad Dumas. Dumas picked up 85 yards on 11 carries for the winners.

Greensburg came back on its next possession and scored an apparent touchdown on a pass from Storie to Chris Cobler. But a clipping call negated the TD. Later in that drive, a fake field-goal attempt failed and Greensburg came up empty, preserving Charlestown's seventh shutout of the year.

After a touchdown pass of seven yards from quarterback Brad Crace to Will Fugate put the Pirates on top 14-0, Cook's first interception and return to the Greensburg 41 allowed Lanham to score his first TD of the

game minutes later. That put Charlestown on top 22-0, a score which stood at the half.

Taking the second-half kickoff at its own 24-yard line, Charlestown drove down the field only to see the drive stall at the 15.

When Greensburg took over on downs, Cook intercepted Storie's first-down pass and returned it to the Greensburg 25-yard line. Minutes later, Lanham scored from three yards out and it was 30-0.

Greensburg then put together a nice drive starting at its own 35. With passes of 15 and 18 yards from Storie to Chris Preston, Greensburg gained a first down at the Charlestown 30. But a holding penalty and two incomplete passes turned the ball over on downs to Charlestown.

After gaining four yards on first down, Lanham broke loose for 61 yards and a touchdown. Crace's conversion kick ended the scoring.

"We were a little shaken at first," said Mastin. "I didn't look at Greensburg with a record of 5-6. To me they were 3-0 (in the state playoff series), just like us."

There may have been a small letdown for Charlestown after its 32-22 upset of No. 1 Evansville Memorial in last Friday's Sectional 24 final, Mastin admitted. But not much of one.

"I thought we played well considering what happened last week's win," Mastin said. "Our defense played great. Crace ran the team well, Cook, Dumas and Lanham all

gave outstanding efforts."

The Charlestown defense, led by Roosevelt Davis and Scott Roberts, held Greensburg to just six first downs and 67 yards rushing. The Pirate offense, meanwhile, managed 361 yards rushing and 17 first downs.

Fugate turned an ankle late in the first half while making a tackle. He sat out the second half, but should be ready to play against Roncalli.

"We can hold our heads up," said Greensburg Coach Steve Snyder. "My kids were 2-6 (at one point earlier in the season). They could have given up, but didn't. We won three games in a row, but we were defeated by the team that eliminated the No. 1 team."

"Coach Mastin has done a fantastic job," Snyder added. "He's had three years to build this team. What you're hearing out of me right now is envy."

"I have to pick them now to win it all."

"Destination Dome," indeed.

STATISTICS

	C'town	G'burg
First downs	17	6
Yards rushing	361	67
Passes	3-9-0	8-19-3
Passing yards	47	125
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	4-50	6-65
Punts	2-38.5	4-31.2

CHARLESTOWN	8	14	8	7	—	37
GREENSBURG	0	0	0	0	—	0

Charlestown — Chad Dumas, 36, run (Richard Lanham run). Charlestown — Will Fugate, 7, pass from Brad Crace (pass failed). Charlestown — Lanham, 1, run (Lanham run). Charlestown — Lanham, 3, run (Lanham run). Charlestown — Lanham, 61, run (Crace kick).



RICHARD LANHAM (center) breaks a tackle en route to another 257 yards on 32 carries with three touchdowns and three two-point conversions to help the Pirates win the Class 3A Regional 37-0. Staff photo by Garry Jones