Written by DEBBIE HAMM
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Defending Division 5 state champ continues to flex its muscles in rematch with Ozaukee football team

Two years ago, when Jim Lippe took over the varsity football coaching reins at Ozaukee High School, he expressed the belief that you only become a championship team by playing title-caliber opponents.

Last Friday, the Warriors continued that approach when they faced St. Mary's Springs, the defending WIAA Division 5 state champ, for the third time in the past two years.

And for the third time, the meeting left Ozaukee with a lopsided loss, this time by a 48-7 margin in Fond du Lac.

"When you play the undisputed best team in the state in our division, you have to take that into consideration when you look at how the game goes," Lippe said.

"It's a really tough comparison. That being said, we remain one of the few teams that can consistently score on Springs."

After a slow start, Springs took control in the second quarter. The Ledgers scored four touchdowns in the period and entered halftime with a 35-0 lead.

For the game, Springs amassed 283 yards in total offense and got three touchdowns from Ike Floyd and two from Darin Ward, all on the ground.

Springs' defense was just as tough as expected.

The Warriors — who lost Devon Linzenmeyer, their all-time rushing leader, to graduation — managed just 149 yards of offense.

Ozaukee's only touchdown came on an 85-yard kickoff return by Kevin Beckman midway through the third quarter.

The first quarter was close, with Springs getting the lone touchdown on a 28-yard run by Floyd.

But the floodgates opened in the next period. After Mitch Herron's scored on a 1-yard run, the Ledgers added touchdowns on runs of four yards by Ward, two yards by Floyd and 28 yards by Ward.

Springs' lead grew to 41-0 early in the third quarter on a 50-yard touchdown pass from Evan Henderson to Matt Austin.

Beckmann gave Ozaukee a lift with his scoring sprint, but the Ledgers quickly answered with a 4-yard touchdown run by Floyd.

Four Springs backs each had at least 20 yards rushing, led by Floyd with 68 yards on eight carries.

The Warriors' top rusher was Ethan Brouillette with 40 yards on 13 attempts.

Ozaukee, which last year lost to Springs in a nonconference game and the WIAA playoffs, will try to bounce back this Friday when it hosts Burlington Catholic Central at 7 p.m.

"Our matchup this week will provide a much better view of our game strengths and talents," Lippe said.

"I'm incredibly optimistic about this season."

During the game, the Warriors will honor military veterans. In addition to being admitted for free, veterans will be invited onto the field at halftime for a ceremony recognizing their service.

Image Information: RUNNING BACK Marty Franzkowiak tried to escape the jersey-stretching grip of a Muskego tackler during Port Washington's season opener last Friday. Franzkowiak rushed for 108 yards and three touchdowns in his team's 28-27 loss. Photo by Sam Arendt