

The Pottstown Mercury (pottsmmerc.com), Serving Pottstown, PA

Sports

Upper Perk rallies past Muhls

Saturday, September 5, 2009

By Mercury Staff, sports@pottsmmerc.com

LAURELDALE — As Keith Leamer put it, his Upper Perkiomen football team finished what it started Friday night.

The young Indians fell behind twice in their opener with perennial Inter-County League power Muhlenberg, but bounced back with a pair of unanswered second-half scores to pull out a 20-13 victory in both teams' season openers.

"(Muhlenberg) gave it to us early, but our kids didn't back down," said Leamer, the Indians' veteran head coach. "We kept pecking away. We always talk in practice about finishing - finish your plays, finish the game.

"They did a great job of that. It was a great team effort the way they finished it tonight."

Muhlenberg went in front 6-0 before Shawn Wenhold made it 6-6 on a 71-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. However, before the half was over, the host Muhls went in front 13-6 on a Wes Estock touchdown pass.

Wenhold was limited to just three carries in the second half due to leg cramps. However, defensive back Andrew Orlick's interception set the tone moments into the second half. Then quarterback Casey Perlstein made sure the Muhls paid for the turnover with a 20-yard touchdown pass to Ron Gillespie that, following the point-after, evened things up at 13-13.

Orlick then recovered Upper Perkiomen's onside kick and, despite driving to the Muhlenberg two-yard line only to fumble away possession, the Indians' defense held and got excellent field position Gillespie return the ensuing punt to the nine-yard line. Four plays later, Mark Cole ran in the decisive score from three yards out with 7:32 remaining.

URL: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/articles/2009/09/05/sports/srv0000006316419.prt>

© 2009 pottsmmerc.com, a **Journal Register** Property