

# FOOTBALL FRIDAY

 Zionsville  
Lebanon

31  
3  WeBo  
Western

21  
13

## Zionsville battles past Lebanon

BY WILL WILLEMS  
The Lebanon Reporter

LEBANON - It wasn't always pretty, but Zionsville did what they needed to against Lebanon on Friday night.

The Eagles overcame three first-half turnovers and pulled away in the second half during a 31-3 win over the Tigers.

"There are things that we can clean up, and hopefully when we move on from those things we can develop some confidence," Zionsville head coach Scott Turnquist said. "I like the way we responded once those things stopped. We didn't respond well right in the moment, but then we figured it out and got rolling."

After getting a field goal from Trevor Henkle on their opening drive, Zionsville turned it over on each of its next two drives.

But Lebanon failed to take advantage of either turnover, going three-and-out.

Lebanon head coach Jeff Smock said the Tigers did a lot of good things, they were just missing that final connection.

"There are a lot of positives, for sure," Smock said. "This is the best we have played against them in the last four years. The score is what it is, but we competed. Our fight was where it needed to be, we were just really close to making that big play that would turn everything around."

Zionsville went up 10-0 on an 11-yard touchdown pass from Luke Murphy to Eugene Hilton.

Lebanon appeared to be in



PHOTO BY WILL WILLEMS | THE LEBANON REPORTER

Eugene Hilton avoids a tackle at the goal line in the second quarter Friday night. Hilton had two touchdowns against Lebanon.

position to respond, driving down to the Zionsville 3 yard line where they faced a fourth-and-goal, but a false start penalty forced them to settle for a 25-yard field goal from Brady Johnson.

The Tigers looked to be in business again when Zionsville fumbled three plays later, but after forcing the Tigers to go three-and-out, the Eagles went 80 yards in 50 seconds, scoring on a 9-yard run by Murphy.

"That was a huge," Turnquist said. "Both for Luke and his confidence and the offense and their confidence. It was good to see them respond the way that

they did to end the first half and that got things going in the right direction for us."

Things continued to go Zionsville's way after halftime.

Lebanon went three-and-out on the opening possession of the third, and Zionsville needed just four plays to go 49 yards, scoring on a 24-yard pass from Murphy to Mason Riggins.

After the Tigers next drive stalled at midfield, Zionsville needed five plays to go 44 yards, with Murphy finding Hilton for a 4-yard score.

"They had one big play before the half and that set them up and it went from there," Smock said. "We don't score

after the turnover, and then they score, and it was the same thing coming out of the third quarter when we couldn't get anything going offensively. Those drives on either side of the half are back breakers."

Murphy had a big game for the Eagles, going 15 of 18 for 189 yards and three scores.

Hilton had five catches for 77 yards and two scores, with Wrigley Bumgardner had 4for 51. Riggins had 3 for 52.

"We wanted to get the passing game going," Turnquist said. "Early it was a bit of a struggle, but I think the more Luke gets comfortable and the more the guys understand

where he is coming from - it's going to get better and better. I was excited to see that progress today."

For Lebanon, Brendan Shockley had 20 carries for 101 yards.

Jackson Folden was 5 of 13 for 24 yards passing. Smock said the running game was getting to where they want it, and now the next phase is getting the passing game going.

"I'm proud of what our running game was able to do," Smock said. "Their defensive front was tough and for us to get the running game going like we did - I'm pleased with that. We have to find a way to get the passing game going. We knew coming in we were going to have to dink-and-dunk them some and we didn't execute that as well as we wanted."

Both coaches applauded their teams after the game for the way they handled the heat adversity throughout the week. Along with the game time being pushed back an hour on Friday, practice times all week got changed and there were a lot of moving parts to get things done.

"They handled it really well," Smock said. "We pushed practice back this week until 8, so they were getting home late, but their attitudes were great and got their work in."

Turnquist said it was a good life lesson about how you have to be willing to adjust when things don't go as planned.

"We talk about the life lessons of football," Turnquist said. "When you go through things that are difficult - the reality is it's not anything that's life or death, and you have to respond the right way. You have to plan and adjust, and for our kids it's a good lesson because that's what they are going to have to do the rest of their lives. Talking to coach Smock, they went through the same thing. It was pretty cool to see the way they adapt and adjust."

Conference play starts next week for both schools.

Zionsville hosts Westfield.

"We have to cut down the turnovers for sure," Turnquist said. "Those are things we can clean up and take care of. We are a team that is developing and learning and we are growing, which is most important."

Lebanon travels to Danville to face the Warriors.

"We wanted to come out of tonight with some confidence," Smock said. "We got confidence in the running game now, and a lot of confidence in the defense - now we have to get confidence in the passing game. If we put those together, we are a really good football team that can win conference - there is no question about it. There are good teams in our conference, starting with Danville on Friday. We feel good about our team, but we have to be committed to fixing the small things that will break things open for us."



PHOTO BY WILL WILLEMS | THE LEBANON REPORTER

Mason Crew tries to avoid a tackle from Colton Cooper in the first quarter on Friday night.



PHOTO BY WILL WILLEMS | THE LEBANON REPORTER

Luke Murphy threw for three touchdowns and had 189 yards passing in the win.



PHOTO BY WILL WILLEMS | THE LEBANON REPORTER

Mason Riggins fights through a tackle in the second quarter on Friday night. Riggins had a touchdown in the Eagles' 31-3 win.

## Western Boone guts out win over Western 21-13

BY WILL WILLEMS  
The Lebanon Reporter

RUSSIAVILLE - The start of the second half wasn't what the Western Boone football team was looking for on Friday night against Western.

But after seeing a halftime lead slip away, the Stars did what they needed to do to move to 2-0 on the season.

Western Boone overcame a 13-7 deficit in the second half to come away with a 21-13 win over the Panthers.

"They came out on the first drive of the second half, marched it right down and got a lot of momentum," Western Boone head coach Justin Pelley said. "That was a huge turning point that could have gone either way. And our kids could have folded and didn't. The weather was pretty miserable out there, we had a lot of guys in and out and a lot of guys had to step up tonight."

Western Boone took the lead in the first quarter, going on a long drive that was capped by a 17-yard touchdown run from Cannon Brunes.

The drive included a 24-yard pass from Brandon Potter to Mason Tomes on a third-and-26 to set up a fourth-down conversion.

Western Boone had a chance to increase the lead in the second quarter, driving down to the Western 14, but turned it over on downs.

The Panthers took the first possession of the third quarter and scored to tie the game with 8:21 left in the third quarter, and after a three-and-out from the Stars, scored again with 3:15 left in the third quarter to take a 3:15 lead.

"We just told the kids we needed to do what we do," Pelley said. "Our kids were beat, and we had a lot of kids going both ways, but they were tired too. We talked to our guys about the summer, and all the conditioning work we do. We hoped that we had a little more in the tank than they did and we did tonight."

The teams traded punts on the next two drives, but Western Boone won the field position battle, getting the ball on the Western 30.



PHOTO BY WILL WILLEMS | THE LEBANON REPORTER

Cannon Brunes had two rushing touchdowns in the Stars' win over Western on Friday night. WeBo is now 2-0 heading into conference play.

Six plays later Brunes scored from 3 yards out for his second score of the game and Philip Talbott's extra point gave the Stars a 14-13 lead with 9:49 to play.

Western Boone's defense forced another punt, with a Tomes return giving the Stars good field position at the Western 45.

The Stars were able to march

45 yards in eight plays, scoring on a 3-yard run from Potter.

Western got the ball to midfield, but the Western Boone defense stuffed them on fourth down to seal the win.

"We had a little cushion, and there were some untimely penalties on both teams but they got backed up a little with a block in the back," Pelley said. "It's a tough spot there because

you want to pin your ears back and go, but you have to know the situation too. They got us for a big chunk on a screen and got some chunk plays, but our defense held strong."

Pelley said he liked his team's preparation during the week and the way they did what they could with the high temperatures throughout the week.

Where it did make things difficult was on Friday night. With kids cramping in the heat and so many kids playing both ways while learning to play varsity football, Friday night's game provided some interesting challenges for the Stars.

But they were able to persevere through them as best they could.

"It's tough all around because a lot of these kids haven't been on a Friday night football field," Pelley said. "We played last week, but they got off the field pretty quick and they had to play four quarters tonight. We are used to having guys where we can make adjustments when we are on offense and defense, but we have more guys playing both sides of the ball. But we are learning and adjusting and are just trying to get better week by week."

The Stars host Crawfordsville next week, looking to start 3-0 for the second-straight season. The Athenians are 0-2 on the season.

"We are looking for some depth," Pelley said. "We are playing four running backs, six defensive lineman and we are rotating wings in and out. We have to find out who can play where, and for four quarters. This week it's all about us and trying to get guys in the right spots. I think we have guys in the right spots, but can they stay there? Hopefully the conditions improve a little bit and we can stick with our guys."

### Box Score, WeBo 21, Western 13

Western Boone 7 0 0 14 21

Western 0 0 13 0 13

Scoring

WB 1st Brunes 17-yard run (Talbott kick)

W 8:21 3rd Brady Comer 15-yard run (PAT Good)

W 3:15 3rd Levi Shoemaker 4-yard run (PAT no good)

WB 9:49 4th Brunes 3-yard run (Talbott kick)

WB 3:40 4th Potter 3-yard run (Talbott kick)