

Semi-Finals of 2006 7A Playoffs
Lake Zurich Bears vs. Prospect Knights
November 17, 2006

The Knights took their defending state championship on the road in a semi-final match with Lake Zurich. An afternoon game time was set and the crowd arrived early. The permanent and temporary stands were quickly filled with the standing room only crowd.

The crowd was fired up and ready for the beginning of the game. Prospect kicks off with Ziegenfuss kicking the ball into the end zone. Lake Zurich soon established their running game going for 34 yards on their first 5 running plays. Facing second down and 2 yards Baratti makes the stop for a 1 yard loss. Lake Zurich takes a timeout. On third down Kosac gets into the backfield and drops them for a 4 yard loss. Lake Zurich punts the ball only 17 yards giving the Knights the ball at their 27 yard line. A penalty and a sack curtail the drive even with a 10 yard pass to OBrill. Baratti punts to the Lake Zurich 31 where Scanlan makes the tackle.

Lake Zurich is three and out as Kosac drops them for a 1 yard loss, Cherwin reads the screen pass and drops the receiver for no gain and an incomplete pass has Lake Zurich punting. This possession is Prospect's last possession in good field position as they start from their own 40 yard line.

On second down Sobey connects with Munz for a 22 yard pickup. O'Mara finds the hole on the next play for an 11 yard gain to the Lake Zurich 27 yard line. Sobey connects with Munz for an 11 yard gain to 16 yard line. From here the clouds seemed to darken and the fortunes of the Knights took an unwanted turn. Two penalties and two sacks stop the Knights' drive leaving Cherwin facing a 40 yard field goal. Cherwin connects and the Knights go up 3-0 with 25 seconds to go in the first quarter.

On the kickoff Prospect is called for an off sides with Lake Zurich eventually starting their next possession at their 35 yard line. LZ goes to the ground game and drives their way into Prospect territory getting to the 22 yard line where Prospect calls a timeout. The defense stops the drive but LZ connects on a 32 yard field goal to tie the score 3 – 3 with 7:03 to go in the second quarter.

On the kick off O'Mara returns the ball 10 yards to the Prospect 25 yard line. On first down Prospect goes back to the air but the ball is tipped and LZ intercepts at the Prospect 36 yard line. On first down they attempt their first pass down field and find their wide receiver open for a touchdown. Lake Zurich 10 – Prospect 3.

Prospect starts their drive from 21 yard line. Facing a third and 7 Sobey goes to the air and OBrill makes a nice catch but his back foot was out of bounds. Baratti punts to the Lake Zurich 36 yard line. The clock shows 4:59 to go in the half. Baratti stops LZ after a 6 yard gain followed by a pitch play with Munz making the tackle at Prospect 49 yard line. After a holding call LZ faces a first and 20 yards but their running game picks up 22 yards with Dazzo making two of the stops but not until LZ had another first down.

Facing a third and 7, Lake Zurich goes back to the air and completes a pass but fumbles the ball. The ball pops LZ's direction and is good for the first down. Another run has LZ at the Prospect 6 yard line with 24 seconds left on the clock. A QB keeper has the ball on the Prospect 4 yard line and LZ is out of timeouts. Cherwin makes a tackle and LZ spikes the ball to get their field goal team setup for a 23 yard attempt. Hamman flies across from the right side to block the kick and leaving the score LZ 10 and Prospect 3 going into half time.

As half time comes to an end the skies darken and the temperature drops a few more degrees.

To begin the second half Lake Zurich makes the tackle at the 14 yard line. On first down O'Mara runs for 12 yards to the LZ 26 yard line. Facing second and 9 Prospect goes to the air but LZ gets a hand on the ball and it falls incomplete. On third down O'Mara runs for 8 yards but the Knights are facing 4th and 1 at their 35 yard line. LZ returns the punt to their 41 yard line. In part on a nice tackle by Maratea, LZ is punting from mid-field with Prospect starting their next possession from the 20 yard line.

On first down Sobey connects with OBrill for an 11 yard gain. O'Mara then runs for 8 yards on the next two plays leaving Prospect facing third and 2 at their 39 yard line. They take a timeout to setup the next play. After some confusion the Knights are forced to take a second timeout. It appears that LZ may have jumped off side but there is no call. With a running back in motion the snap hits him as is he crossing. Lake Zurich recovers the ball at the Prospect 38 yard line. On 5 running plays LZ drives to the Prospect 12 yard line facing second nine. They run a QB option right Cherwin hits the QB and as he is going down he pitches to the running back who finds his way into the end zone. With 3:28 to go in the quarter it is LZ 17 and Prospect 3.

Prospect next possession starts on the 20 yard line. LZ gets a sack at the 15 yard line and on fourth down Prospect is forced to punt with LZ starting their possession at the Prospect 43 yard line. LZ is back on the ground eating up some yards but more importantly running down the clock. After 4 plays they have picked up 18 yard and the third quarter has come to a closure.

Lake Zurich is facing fourth down and one yard to go. The Knights make a quick hit and the officials measure but it is good for a LZ first down. On first down LZ goes to the air and connects with a police officer standing on the track. On second down they run for 5 yards. Kosac makes a big play stopping LZ at their 29 yard line. LZ elects to punt and they have excellent punt coverage downing the ball at the Prospect 3 yard line. On second down Sobey connects but Prospect is called for a pass interference call. Prospect is forced to punt. Baratti punts to the LZ 42 yard line. The clock reads 7:45 to go in the game.

Richards and Scanlan make nice tackles and LZ is four and out with Prospect again starting at their drive at 13 yard line and 5:46 to go in the game.

Prospect can't connect and punts to the LZ 30 yard line with 4:50 to go. Tackles by Hamman, Richardson, and Munz has LZ facing fourth and 5. Prospect takes their last timeout. O'Mara makes a fair catch at the Prospect 33 yard line. On second down Sobey scrambles and at the last moment connects with OBrill at about mid field. OBrill makes a nice move on the defender and picks up a couple of blocks and he scampers in for a touchdown with 2:51 left in the game. You can sense on the Knights side that there is still the chance for the onside kick and to tie the game. But this glimmer of hope is quickly squashed with the sight of a yellow flag on the field. The play is called back on a call that an ineligible receiver was too far down field. Two plays later LZ intercepts a pass and from there runs out the clock. While there was disappointment in the loss, they know that Lake Zurich played a very good game.

For the seniors they will look back at their last two seasons where Prospect compiled a record of 24 – 3. They claimed two conference titles, a trip to the semi-finals, and a state championship.