

Third Round of 2006 Playoffs
Rolling Meadows Mustangs vs. Prospect Knights
November 10, 2006

The IHSA quarterfinal match up found MSL East divisional foes squaring off at Gattas Stadium. Earlier this year the Knights took their crusaders westbound on Central Road, this time the Mustangs wranglers headed east with the winner to play another day and the loser facing the end of a successful season. Based on the earlier meeting, the Mustangs looked like underdogs, but one week prior, they knocked out the number one seed Libertyville Wildcats. The coaches agreed on a Saturday night game – with the thunderstorms that went through on Friday night, the fans were appreciative of this decision. Clouds blanketed the sky, and at kick off the temperature was 38 degrees and dropping.

Ziegenfuss kicks off for the Knights with Meadows returning it to their 17 yard line. The Meadows' first possession of the night becomes indicative of Prospect's defensive surge. The Mustangs run for 2 yards on the first play where Cherwin and Dazzo stop them. On second down they go airborne but Cherwin and OBrill drop them for a 2 yard loss. On third down it is back to the air with Scanlan pressuring the QB. Prospect starts their first possession at the 40 yard line. Meadows looks tough on defense as it is three and out for the Knights. The Baratti punts to the Meadows 26 yard line.

On the first running play Meadows gains 2 yards before they are stopped by The Dans – Kosac and Hamman. Second down is a loss of six as Meadows fumbles the pitchout, and on third down Maratea gets the sack for a 5 yard loss. On the punt O'Mara returns it 10 yards to the Rolling Meadows 37 yard line.

On second down the offensive line provides great protection and Sobey locates Munz across the middle for a 36 yard touchdown pass. With 4:50 to go in the first quarter it is Prospect 7 – Meadows 0.

On the Cherwin kickoff Meadows starts their drive from the 23 yard line. Stops by Richardson, Kosac, and Maratea have the Mustangs back in punt formation. The O'Mara return has Prospect at the fifty yard line. Sobey has 19 yards on two runs to give the Knights a first down. The quarter ends with Prospect leading 7-0.

On the second play of the quarter Meadows gets an interception at the Meadows 37 yard line. On the next play Meadows fumbles and Munz recovers for Prospect at the Meadows 47 yard line.

A holding call has Prospect facing a second down and 16 yards to go. O'Mara follows a Mack block and runs for 22 yards. On fourth down Sobey gains six to give the Knights a first down at the Meadows 20 yard line. Meadows defense tightens and a third down sack has Prospect facing a fourth down and 14. Cherwin goes for a 42 yard field goal into the wind. The ball is on line but falls just short.

Prospect defense led by Maratea, Cherwin, and Scanlan stops Meadows. On the punt O'Mara returns the ball to Prospect 38 yard line with 3:04 to go in the half. Prospect again struggles but an O'Mara 16 yard run and a penalty give the Knights a first down. A hand off to the Mack Attack garners 21 yards. A pass to Cherwin puts the ball on the Prospect 18 yard line with a minute to go in the half. A Prospect fumble brings the drive and the half to an end with Prospect 7 – Rolling Meadows 0.

On the kickoff to Prospect the Knights can't get a drive going and punts to Meadows. The Mustangs look like they are going to have a good return, then one Meadows player tackles the other at the Meadows 21 yard line. On second down Meadows completes the pass to Cherwin who returns it to the Prospect 8 yard line. A high snap stalls the Knights drive but Cherwin connects on the field goal and Prospect leads 10 – 0 with 8:35 to go in the third quarter.

On the Cherwin kickoff Pack and Ziegenfuss make the tackle at the Meadows 36 yard line. On next Meadows series the defense stops them again. Plays are made by Scanlan, Cherwin, Baratti and a tipped pass by Maratea. O'Mara returns the punt 12 yards to the Prospect 43 yard line.

A pass to Cherwin and runs by Sobey and O'Mara provides the Knights a first down. The Knights then have another false start. Sobey connects on a 17 yard pass to Munz for a first down. On the next third down and facing 9 yards to go Sobey finds Munz again for 17 yards to the Meadows 12 yard line. Three plays later Sobey connects with Cherwin for the TD. With 1:51 left in the quarter Prospect goes up 17 – 0.

Meadows next series starts at their 16 yard line. An incomplete pass and a tackle by Richardson finds Meadows still at the 16 yard line. On third down Meadows is back in the air and have their first, first down of the evening with the aid of a pass interference call. A Meadows pass is then incomplete and Hamman and Scanlan stop the run for a two yard loss. The third quarter comes to an end with Prospect leading 17-0.

On third down Hamman makes the hit on the receiver and the pass goes incomplete. Cherwin returns the punt to the Meadows 45 yard line.

On first down Sobey connects with Munz to the Meadows' 33 yard line. O'Mara gains 18 yards on two carries, and a face mask call has Prospect first and goal from the 10 yard line. The Knights score on the second Cherwin field goal, Prospect 20 and Meadows 0 with 9:39 to go in the game. On the kickoff Meadows returns the ball to their 42 yard line where Hennig and Cherwin make the stop. On third down Meadows gets their first offensive first down of the game getting to the Prospect 41 yard line. Meadows is stopped there and the ball comes back to the Knights.

With 7:04 left in the game the Knights want to run out the clock. With three runs O'Mara gets the Knights to the Meadows 45 yard line. Senft gains 6 yards on the ground and a pass to Munz gives the Knights a first down at the Meadows 28 yard line. After a penalty Senft goes 11 yards to the Meadows 22 yard line. Sobey breaks free to the

Meadows 5 yard line with 2:45 left in the game. On third down Meadows strips the ball with Prospect recovering at the 15 yard line. Lazarz runs for a four yard gain, and the game comes to an end.

Prospect now has its third straight post season shut-out holding Meadows to 44 yards offense. This impressive defensive execution will now face the challenge of trying to contain Lake Zurich next week in the semi-final game. In the first 3 rounds of the playoffs Lake Zurich has averaged 33 points per game. As this story goes to press, or should we say to the WEB, the date and time for the Lake Zurich – Prospect game is not yet set. The winner will head to Champaign for the 7A Championship game against either Providence or St. Rita.