

August 25, 2006
Prospect Varsity Football
Prospect VS Downers Grove North

The anticipation, excitement, and fanfare of a new football season were in the air. The Downers Grove North Marching Band welcomed the Prospect fans by playing the Prospect fight song. The field was set for the opening kick-off and another hard fought game between the Knights and the Trojans. What can be better than the start of another season of sports at Prospect High School?

The early moments of the game it appeared that might be a struggle as the Trojans racked up four first downs driving the ball into Prospect territory.

On DGN first series they faced a third and 8 following nice tackles by OBrill (OB) and Zusevics (Zus) when DGN pulled out a first down play. Then a couple of pass plays DGN had driven to mid field. Richardson then pulled down the QB on a keeper but not before DGN had gained another 8 yards into Prospect territory. With the ball at about the Prospect 45, Cherwin got in the DGN's backfield and dropped the QB for a four yard loss. On the next play Prospect forced the first of 3 DGN turnovers. A fumble had the ball popping out of the runners hand and Richardson secured it for the first Knights fumble recovery in 2006. The Prospect side roared and the offense took the field.

The Knights immediately drew a 5 yard procedural penalty. Surely this early penalty was not the result of mistake in the offense plan, rather an appreciation for the DGN playing the Prospect fight song. So the Knights are now first and 15. The Mack Attack immediately went to work. The offensive line (Zus, Baratti, Carlson, Kosac, Dabrowski, & GiambelUCA – it sounds like a law firm or a collection agency) began their night long program of opening lanes for the backfield. Mack ran the first plays gaining a total of 13 yards. On third and two the ball slipped free but an alert Sobey recovered the fumble. Prospect is four and out as Baratti punts the pig skin.

DGN offensive unit is back on the field. Kosac is not happy to be called immediately back to defensive work and makes a quick tackle for a three yard loss. With second and thirteen DGN goes to the air. OB scampers to the front side of the receiver jumps and tips the ball. OB and the DGN receiver go down. This leaves Munz with deep coverage and the only man standing, he garbs the tipped ball for a Prospect interception.

Prospect offense had seen enough of the 8 yards runs and decided to try to the air. Sobey sees the cutting and open Dazzo. He hits him on the numbers. Dazzo scampers for the Knights first score of the 2006 season. Cherwin connects on the extra point and with 4:31 to go in the first 7quarter the Knights lead 7-0.

Ziegenfuss is back on the field for kickoff duties. This time the ball goes high and deep into the end zone for a touchback. DGN looks like they are ready to come back. As on their first drive, they face a third and long and covert on a QB keeper. But the Knights

defense tightens behind a Richardson tackle and the DGN is forced to punt. The ball carries O'Mara inside the Prospect 30 and he returns it to the 33.

The word in the stands (not very reliable but this reporter is accepting it) is O'Mara went into the huddle and told Sobey and the offensive line he needs to get his legs stretched out. So the handoff goes to O'Mara and the OL provides him the needed daylight. O'Mara dashes for a 67 yard touchdown. An errant extra point has Prospect leading 13-0 with 1:20 to go in the quarter.

Ziegenfuss this times tries the elusive squib kickoff, but it squibbles (check that out in your list of football terms) out of bounds at the 35. Before the first quarter comes to an end DGN runs two plays with Baratti and Kosac containing them to a third and long.

As the second quarter begins the DGN QB finds himself in a broken play with Richardson breathing down on him. The QB sees a receiver over the on charging Richardson and puts the ball out for a 15 yard gain and a first down. DGN goes to the ground game running off three plays to secure another first down. Kosac and Baratti have enough of this running and stop DGN for no gain on first down. DGN goes back to the air but the fleet footed Baratti intercepts and returns the ball 15 yards to the 50 yard line.

Another penalty has Prospect facing first and 15. A 6 yard run by Mack starts the drive. Cherwin goes up for a pass and DGN corner back hits him airborne but Cherwin hangs onto the ball and pops back to his feet to make it third and 2. A series of runs by Mack and O'Mara nets Prospect two more fist downs and has Prospect now facing a third and four at about the 20. Sobey goes back to the air and finds Cherwin for the score!!

Prospect goes for the two point conversion but DGN stops them. With 5:02 left in the half Prospect leads 19-0.

On the ensuing kickoff DGN finds a seam and only has OB to beat. OB fights off the blocker and brings down the DGN runner after a 35 yard return. The next two plays DGN puts the ball on the ground with Munz first teaming with Zus and then with Radcliff leaving DGN facing a 3rd and 7yards to go. A Kosac and Cherwin tackle has DGN facing a fourth and 2. With 2:16 in the half DGN garners the first down. On the first down play, Hamman stops the run for no gain. DGN goes to the air for a gain of 7 with O'Mara making the tackle. Baratti then blitzes and sacks the quarterback for 3 yard loss. With only seconds on the clock DGN goes to the air but facing pressure from the rushing Kosac and Maratea the pass goes incomplete. As the clock runs out, Prospect heads to half time with a 19-0 lead.

After enjoying the DGN half time show and a trip to the concession stand, the Prospect fans settle back in hoping for a repeat of the first half.

DGN kickoff and Ziegenfuss returns it to the 34 yard line. Prospect now mounts its longest sustained drive (O'Mara's 67 yard run was a longer but we are checking if it is

permissible to call one play scoring possession a sustained drive). The drive starts with passes to O'Mara and OB resulting in a first down at mid-field. The Mack Attack runs for 5 but DGN counters with and QB sack. O'Mara then goes left for 9 leaving 4th and a long 4. Prospect elects to go for the first down and converts on a well executed "play" up the middle.

O'Mara this time follows the left side of the line and garners 9 yards but the play is followed by a motion call leaving the Knights facing a second and nine. Sobey drops back and finds that Cherwin has found a gap in the coverage for a 28 yard gain and first down. Sobey then goes back to O'Mara who follows his blockers into the end zone. Chewing converts. On a 6:15 minute scoring drive the Knights go up 26-0.

Ziegenfuss tries out his leg again. The Knights and DGN then trade a series of 4 and out possessions. After a DGN first down, DGN is now facing a third short situation. Hamman gets into the backfield resulting in a two yard loss. DGN punts.

With 10:04 the Knights hands the ball off to DiCaro who crashes through the right side of the line for a 9 yard gain he follows that with a 6 yard gain for a Knight first down.

Facing second and nine Sobey goes airborne to OB for 8. On third down DiCaro gains 10 as he shakes a couple of tacklers. DiCaro legs are warmed up and he goes for an 11 yard run for another Prospect first down. Sobey then hits Smith down the sidelines for a 14 more yards. On the next play the Knights get caught in the Beatles song "I wanna hold your hand" as a result the official say first and 25.

Lazarz drops back and then sees the middle is open for a 10 yard run. DiCaro gains 2 and the Knights face third 13. Lazarz on a QB keeper finds his blockers have cleared a path as he scores on a 19 yard run. Smith converts on the extra point and the Knights lead 33-0 with 4:46 left in the game.

Smith kicks off and he and O'Donnell bring down the return man at the DGN 27 yard line. DGN runs into the middle of the Knights defensive line for no gain. This is followed by stops by M. Kennedy and Radcliff and then Ziegenfuss and DiCaro leaving DGN facing 4th and 10. They punt to the 48 yard line. Przespolewski then assumes QB duties and practices his hand off skills as the Prospect runs out the clock on a series of four runs by Gaddini.

Game ends – The Knights celebrate their opening day win 33-0. Now time to prepare for the Fremd Vikings.

If you have made it to the end of this the story line and were at the game, several you are probably wondering if this is the same game you observed. As you recall other players in some of these plays. The writer for the story is sticking by his account of the game; at least until the video shows that he was actually at the concession stand.