

Harlan County fullback Tucker Lewis scored the Bears' first touchdown Saturday.

Saturday, August 27
Middleton, McMillian each top 200
yards in rout of Bulldogs

By JOHN HENSON
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LEXINGTON — Derrick Thomas and



the Dunbar Bulldogs knew exactly what the Harlan County Black Bears were going to do when they had the ball in Saturday's i-High Football Frenzy clash at Ishmael Stadium.

Knowing and doing something about it proved to be entirely different matters though as the Bulldogs were unable to stop Harlan County's power ground game. Harlan County rolled up 563 yards on the ground in a 48-20 victory.

"My hat is off to coach Larkey and the Harlan County football team," said Dunbar's first-year coach. "They are big and strong and showed why they are ranked No. 10 in the state. We're a young team and they are very strong and very experienced."

Junior Jake Middleton ran for 216 yards on 19 carries and senior Marcus McMillian added 204 on 22 carries in a performance that left HCHS coach Tom Larkey searching through his memory to try to find a better effort by two backs. "I don't think I've ever had a team to do that," Larkey said. "It really helps that we don't have to play them both at the same times. One of them can be on the sideline resting.

"I thought our blocking was good, too, but I'm never satisfied. We have to keep getting better because we're going to play some better teams than what we played today."

Harlan County scored on its first five possessions, beginning with a 17-yard TD run by junior fullback Tucker Lewis with 8:03 to play in the first quarter to cap a seven-play, 88-yard drive. Josh Jenkins hit the first of five extra points in the half. The Bears needed only one play to reach the end zone on their second possessions as Middleton broke through the line and raced 91 yards for a touchdown with 5:16 left in the first quarter.

A play-action fake from senior quarterback Jordy Brewer led to the Bears' third touchdown, a 27-yard pass play to Middleton with 11:16 to play in the first half. Senior wide receiver Austin Maggard helped spring Middleton for the score with a nice downfield block.

After a three-and-out possession by the Bulldogs, Harlan County needed only four plays to reach the end zone. Brewer ran 13 yards and McMillian went 25 to give the Bears a first down on the 7. McMillian scored on the next play and Jenkins hit the extra point for a 28-0 lead with 8:26 left in the second quarter.

Dunbar broke through for its first score as quarterback Blake Martin went 13 yards for a touchdown with 6:45 to play in the second quarter. Martin found Emory Thompson for a 33-yard gain on the previous play.

McMillian had five straight carries as the Bears answered, capped by a 16-yard scoring run by McMillian, who carried two defenders into the end zone. Jenkins' extra point pushed the lead to 35-7 with 3:41 left.

A long kickoff return set up a second Dunbar touchdown. John Rose had runs of 38, 6 and 12 yards to cut the deficit to 35-14 at halftime.

"They ran a play we really hadn't worked on. It's called a midline out of the shotgun where the quarterback reads it," Larkey said. "We weren't playing it wrong. The linebackers weren't really flying up there like they should. I think once we took the lead we thought we had it in the bag and lost some intensity."

Harlan County marched 63 yards in 10 plays on the opening series of the second half. Brewer capped the drive with a 2-yard keeper at the 7:39 mark of the third quarter. Jenkins' extra point stretched the lead to 42-14.

Two 15-yard penalties proved costly to the Bears as Dunbar drove 57 yards in six plays, aided by calls for pass interference and a face mark. Martin went the final yard for a touchdown with 10:03 left. Junior tackle Coty Miracle broke through to drop Martin on the two-point conversion attempt.

Middleton and McMillian took turns as Harlan County answered with a seven-play 65-yard march capped by McMillian's 5-yard run with 7:03 to play. Dan Johnson blocked Jenkins' extra point attempt after a bad snap.

Harlan County (2-0) returns to action Friday at Gate City, Va.

Harlan County	14	21	7	6	—	48
Dunbar	0	14	0	6	—	20

HC — Lewis 17 run (Jenkins kick)
HC — Middleton 91 run (Jenkins kick)
HC — Middleton 27 pass from Brewer (Jenkins kick)
HC — McMillian 7 run (Jenkins kick)
D — Martin 13 run (Hill kick)
HC — McMillian 16 run (Jenkins kick)
D — Rose 12 run (Gurley kick)
HC — Brewer 2 run (Jenkins kick)
D — Martin 1 run (run failed)
HC — McMillian 5 run (kick blocked)

HCHS DHS
First downs 28 11

Rushes-yards 62-563 30-132

Passing 43 41

Comp-Att-Int 3-4-0 2-15-0

Punts-Avg 1-51 6-41

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 3-0

Penalties-Yards 11-85 1-15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Harlan County, Middleton 19-216, McMillian 22-204, Brewer 8-61, T. Lewis 2-23, Chitwood 3-16, Whitehead 3-14, Daniels 3-13, Chorak 1-3, H. Lewis 1-3. Dunbar, Rose 5-80, Olige 6-31, Martin 13-17, Williams 4-4, Duncan 1-0, Armstrong 1-0.

PASSING—Harlan County, Brewer 3-4-0-43. Dunbar, Martin 2-15-0-41.

RECEIVING—Harlan County, Middleton 2-39, Maggard 1-4. Dunbar, Thompson 1-33, Pergram 1-8.



Sophomore safety Zach Chitwood knocked down a pass during Saturday's game.