

Ligman's big night

Copper Hills running attack awakens and has record-setting game

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Tommy Ligman had a night he'll always remember. On a warm, late August evening, the Copper Hills running back was a huge bundle of energy as he carried the Grizzlies to a 50-21 non-region win over Hillcrest.

Just one week after a disappointing effort against Kearns, the Grizzlies gave their home fans a big thrill. Ligman rushed for 164 yards on 17 carries, and tied a school record with four touchdowns. Henry Kemp also broke free with a 76-yard scoring run and Copper Hills was never threatened.

"Hillcrest stood in the same defense and we just overpowered them," said offensive lineman Spencer Koehler. "That was my best game. The O-Line's main goal was to get as many rushing touchdowns as we could."

Coming into the season, Copper Hills adjusted its offense. The Grizzlies changed from the spread to a more conservative style and it ended up being a record-setting night.

Ligman led the way as the team rushed for 286 yards and averaged over eight yards per carry. Ligman and Kemp both eclipsed the 100-yard mark. Quarterbacks Aaron Khan and Christian Reese combined to throw just three passes all night.

"All week in practice we focused on blocking, executing and just working on being a tougher football team," said Ligman who also had a sack on defense. "We switched a couple of guys on the line and they really got after it tonight.

"We just got back to the fundamentals of



TOP: Tommy Ligman sprints by a Hillcrest defender.

BOTTOM: Mike Wadsworth bulls over his opponent.

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COPPER HILLS FOOTBALL: Grizzlies 50, Hillcrest 21



TOP LEFT: Craig Goff (left) and Aaron Stobehn converge on a Hillcrest ball carrier.

TOP RIGHT: J.T. Mayne looks downfield during his 80-yard kickoff return.

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blocking and tackling," added Kapele. "We came in with the attitude of we're going to trust each other and trust the coaches."

The domination started early. On the game's second play, Kemp got a nice block from Koelher and broke free on his long touchdown run. After Copper Hills stopped Hillcrest, Ligman finished a long drive with a 4-yard touchdown run.

Trailing 21-0 midway through the first quarter, Hillcrest got one of its only breaks of the night as cornerback Brock Whitworth picked off an errant pass and ran untouched for the first Husky score.

Unfazed, the Grizzlies marched 75 yards on eight plays, capped by a touchdown run from Kahn to regain momentum.

Kahn added another touchdown run in the second quarter, and J.T. Mayne returned a kickoff for a score. It was 40-14 at halftime, and Copper Hills had set a team record for most points in a quarter (27).

"We took the old Copper Hills mentality and threw it out the window," said Koehler. "We executed better than we ever had before."



Ligman



GAME SUMMARY

Hillcrest	7	7	0	7	- 21
Copper Hills	27	13	10	0	- 50

- CH – Henry Kemp 74 run (Aaron Price kick)
- CH – Tommy Ligman 4 run (Price kick)
- CH – Ligman 17 run (Price kick)
- H – Brock Whitworth 20 interception return (Richardo Reyes kick)
- CH – Aaron Khan 3 run (kick failed)
- H – Parker Wettstein 49 run (Reyes kick)
- CH – J.T. Mayne 80 kickoff return (Price kick)
- CH – Ligman 6 run (Price kick)
- CH – Ligman 19 run (Price kick)
- CH – FG Price 20
- H – Bailey Ammons 77 pass from Tanner Dastrup (Reyes kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

- RUSHING:** Hillcrest – Kyle Gashler 5-33, McKay Johnson 7-24, Denzel Murphy 4-19, Alex Brakey 2-3, Ian Smith 1-1, Tanner Thompson 1-(-2), Dastrup 3-(-17). CH – Ligman 16-156, Kemp 8-103, Dan Olson 1-11, Christian Reese 6-9, Khan 1-3, Anthony Hall 1-3, Christian Rixe 1-1.
- PASSING:** Hillcrest – Dastrup 8-14-0-211 yards, Thompson 1-1-0-20 yards. CH – Khan 1-2-0-0 yards, Reese 0-1-0-0.
- RECEIVING:** Hillcrest – Ammons 3-92, Wettstein 1-49, Buddy Nemeschy 3-49, Johnson 1-20, Khalid Ibrahim 1-19. CH – Zach Smith 1-0.