

Hornets tame Tigers to extend shutout streak to 3 straight games.

Attleboro Sun-Chronicle

TAUNTON — The Mansfield High football team continues to refuse to surrender points this season.

The unbeaten Kelley-Rex Division-leading Hornets posted a 34-0 shutout over Taunton High Friday in a Hockomock League game at Tiger Stadium.

The Hornets (5-0) have recorded three straight shutouts after having allowed just one TD in each of their first two games.

Next up for coach Mike Redding and the Hornets is a renewal of the Thanksgiving Day rivalry, an April 24 meeting at Mansfield High with a 10 a.m. kickoff.

Hornets' senior running back Anthony Comer proved to be the catalyst for the Hornets by scoring two TD's, including a 40-yard punt return for a touchdown in the final minute of the first half to build a 21-0 lead.

The Hornets did not have a takeaway in the game, but staked the lead on touchdown runs by Cincere Gill and Jake Wall.

Boston Globe;
Mansfield 34, Taunton 0
Friday, April 16, 2021, at Taunton

Senior Anthony Comer blazed to TD runs of 46, 45, and 60 yards touchdowns to carry the second-ranked Hornets (5-0) to the Hockomock League title.

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Mansfield		7	14	13	0	34
Taunton		0	0	0	0	0

First quarter

Mansfield Anthony Comer 46-yard run (Jimmy Gilleran kick)

Second quarter

Mansfield Cincere Gill 16-yard run (Jimmy Gilleran kick)

Mansfield Anthony Comer 45-yard punt return (Jimmy Gilleran kick)

Third quarter

Mansfield Anthony Comer 60-yard run (Jimmy Gilleran kick)

Mansfield Jake Wall 65-yard run (XP missed)

Comer, Mansfield roll past Taunton High in inclement weather

The Taunton Daily Gazette

The football Gods nor the weather cooperated with the Taunton High team on Friday. Visiting Mansfield seemed to enjoy the inclement conditions.

The Hornets scored 34 unanswered points and recorded their fourth straight shutout, blanking the Tigers 34-0 on a cold, wet and windy April day at Aleixo 'Tiger' Stadium in a Kelley Rex matchup on the campus of Taunton High school.

"They're [Mansfield] the best ... they're big and strong," Taunton head coach Brad Sidwell said. "They're well-coached in all phases. They showed it today."

Senior running back Anthony Comer had three touchdowns on the afternoon for the Hornets (5-0), including a 48-yard punt return for a score.

Cincere Gill and Jake Wall also scored touchdowns in the victory.

Three of Mansfield's running plays for scores were over 40 yards or more.

"We didn't have any long drives ... we were just popping the big plays," Mansfield head coach Michael Redding said. "We have so much team speed that once we get through the line, we are tough to catch."

There was a sense early it just wasn't the Tigers' day on the game's first play from scrimmage.

Senior running back Josh Lopes just missed connecting with wide receiver Trent Santos on a halfback pass. On the day, Taunton mustered less than 100 yards of total offense.

"Our defense has just been unbelievable all year," Redding said. "Taunton has a young team and we are an experienced group. I think next year, you are going to see them make some progress in the league."

The Hornets showed their talent and skill level early on during their opening possession. On a fourth down and 1 play, Comer ran around the edge and exploded for a 46-yard touchdown run to give Mansfield an early 7-0 lead after a James Gilleran's extra point.

A muffed punt early in the second quarter gave the Hornets a short field at the Tiger 27. Two plays later, Gill took it in from 17 yards out to give Mansfield a 14-0 lead.

Taunton (2-3) forced the Hornets to punt right before the half, but then punted the ball away themselves with eight seconds left. Comer made the Tigers pay by returning the pigskin 48 yards to the pylon with no time left on the clock for a 21-0 halftime lead.

Sidwell argued the touchdown, claiming Comer landed short of the goal line but to no avail.

"That was a tough call and tough play," he said. "It was a big play and it changed the momentum. We probably should have kicked the ball out of bounds. We had it the right way for Cover 2 but we just did not make the tackle.

"Instead of going in at halftime just down two scores, now it is three touchdowns. It kind of snowballed from there."

Comer, who finished with 138 yards on seven carries, got the hand-off on the first play in the second half and galloped 62 yards for a touchdown, increasing the Hornets' lead to 28-0 after another Gilleran extra point.

Wall capped the scoring on the next drive with a 64-yard touchdown run to give Mansfield a commanding 34-0 margin with 9:15 left in the third.