

Saint Mary Football

Rutherford, N.J. – Coming off a tough loss at home against Hasbrouck Heights, 21-20, in Week two, St. Mary had a great opportunity for redemption against a similar New Milford team in Week three. New Milford was also coming off a tough loss to Cresskill 20-14. Both teams came in looking to come out of Week three with a victory.

After going three and out on their first offensive series and giving up a rushing touchdown on their first defensive series, St. Mary's found themselves in an early 7-0 hole. Led by junior running back Jonathan Diaz, the Gaels marched down the field with their powerful run game and scored to tie the game at seven. A few unsuccessful drives later, New Milford broke off a long run from midfield and scored to make it 14-7. With momentum in favor of New Milford, St. Mary's did not even blink as Diaz scored on the in suing kickoff.

With about six minutes to go in the first half and led by senior safety Anthony Ferrentino who finished the day with 13 tackles, the Gaels forced another punt. Again moving the ball effectively with the run game, the drive was capped off with a long touchdown pass from junior quarterback Ryan Monaghan to junior receiver AJ Godsil. After a missed PAT attempt, the score was 19-14 in favor the St. Mary's.



With under two minutes to go and a long field to cover, New Milford was again able to score on a long run to take a 21-19 lead just before halftime.

Both defenses came out of halftime with the same mentality – stop the run. In doing so, the St Mary's defense recorded four sacks and forced two fumble, one of which recovered by junior end Jason Freeman-Smith.

With the ball back going into the fourth quarter, the Gaels again marched the ball down the field on consecutive run plays. On a one yard run to the left side, Diaz snuck his way into the end zone for his third touchdown of the day.

A trick kickoff return gave New Milford very good field position to start their final drive. They ran the ball around the left side for twenty yards when the Gaels needed a timeout. Once New Milford got down into the red zone, St Mary's defense made three key stops, which set up fourth and goal with a little more than a minute remaining. The next play brought a touchdown pass from New Milford to make the score 27-27 and after a missed PAT, the Gaels had 1:00 to score one last time.

Two toss plays for big gains by junior back Harvey Rison, led to a successful rollout pass from Monaghan to Godsil to make the score 33-27 with 16 seconds left. The Gaels hung on to the lead and finished with a key victory.