

Saint Mary Football

Wallington, N.J. – The St. Mary’s Gaels started off the season with high expectations and many unproven starters. They opened with rival Wallington whose only loss last season came against St. Mary. On their brand new field, Wallington was looking to avenge their only loss last season. This year the Gaels were determined to prove that despite their inexperience, they are still a force to be reckoned with.



The Gaels started slow going down 14-0 early in the second quarter. On the next play from scrimmage, junior running back Jonathan Diaz showed off his speed and tackle breaking ability when he broke a 70-yard run and scored the Gaels’ first points. After a few stops by the physical defense of the Gaels and a sack by junior end Jason Freeman-Smith, the first of his career, St. Mary had the ball with two minutes to go in the first half and a long field

ahead of them. With a minute left, a 45-yard pass from junior quarterback Ryan Monaghan to junior receiver Connor Cuccinelli brought the Gaels into the red zone and after one incomplete pass, Monaghan found junior receiver AJ Godsil in the corner of the end zone to take the lead. The Gaels took a 20-14 lead into the locker room.



The second half brought three more St. Mary touchdowns, two from their explosive offense. One was another long rushing touchdown from Diaz and the other was another touchdown pass from Monaghan to Godsil. The third was a punt return touchdown by Godsil as well.



In the second half, the Gaels defense put a firm hold on the Wallington offense led by leading tackler, linebacker AJ Godsil with nine tackles. With half of the fourth quarter gone and Wallington’s offense driving, the game was wrapped up by an impressive interception by Godsil.

Photos Courtesy of Gina Lazarczyk