



### **National Signing Day - Lancaster High School**

Pictured Left to Right Front Row:

Jordan Francis - Ohio Dominican

Luke Roberts - Ohio State

Aaron Woosley - Ball State

Back Row: Coach Albertini, Coach Cheek, Coach Pezo, Coach Carpenter, Coach Knuckles, Coach Schoonover

### **The Lancaster High School Athletic Department congratulates**

Jordan Francis, Luke Roberts and Aaron Woosley on their commitment to continue their education and football careers in college next year. Francis signs with Ohio Dominican, Woosley signs with Ball State and Roberts signs with Ohio State. Best wishes to all three.



### Division III College-Bound Athletes

Pictured above are six Lancaster High School Seniors who will be participating in Division III College athletics next year.

Pictured from left to right: Jacob Spearman - Washington and Jefferson (Wrestling), Ben Barnhart-Sullivan - Muskingum (Wrestling), Logan Stroppe - Washington and Jefferson (Wrestling), Spencer Marshall - Muskingum (Wrestling), Nick Thompson - Marietta (Football), Caitlyn Poston - Muskingum (Soccer). Other Lancaster Seniors planning to participate in DIII athletics, not pictured are: Ethan Jones - Muskingum (Football), Xavier West - Muskingum (Football), David Hartranft - Muskingum (Football), Kellie Arter - Dennison (Basketball), Jordan Kempton - Shawnee State (Baseball), Caleb Hester - Marietta (Basketball), Jenna Jones- Indianapolis (Softball), Ashlee Brill - Bethany College (Softball), Abby Renko - Bethany College (Softball), Ethan Cordle - Wilmington (Football)



## Varsity Football

**8.26.11 Lancaster vs. Logan 35-13 win**

Written by Vince Nairn The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER -- With Logan dominating on defense and his team trailing, Lancaster coach Rob Carpenter turned to Luke Roberts for an offensive spark.

It took two attempts, but a long touchdown run energized the Golden Gales, and they turned up the pressure in a sloppy, penalty-riddled contest to manage a 35-13 win Friday night at Fulton Field.

Trailing 7-0 in the second quarter, the Golden Gales had only one first down. It came from Roberts, who promptly ran for 39 yards on his only first-half offensive appearance.

Three plays after a 28-yard touchdown run was negated because of a penalty, Roberts powered through the Logan defense for a 32-yard score, and a two-point conversion gave the Gales an 8-7 lead.

"We came out with good energy. They were giving us stuff we'd never seen before," Lancaster coach Rob Carpenter said. "But we came out in the second half committed to playing much better."

The Gales then forced a punt on three plays and another Lancaster running back took over. Russ King ran for 47 yards and a touchdown on three plays to give the Gales a 15-7 lead at the half.

The Gales opened up the game with big plays. Andrew Shisler added another long score with an 80-yard touchdown run on Lancaster's third play of the half to make the score 22-7.

Ethan Jones added another 27-yard run to start the fourth quarter. The Gales' potent running game tired Logan, and a two-yard run by King extended the Gales' lead to 29-7. Flags cluttered the field all game. The two teams were flagged constantly, and missed tackles and fumbled snaps were also present often in a not-so-clean Week 1 game.

"We tackled when we had to," Carpenter said. "A few times we had a receiver open and could have scored two touchdowns."

Twice, penalties backed up Logan more than 40 yards on a drive. The Chieftains had more than 100 yards worth of penalties.

Roberts left the game for half of the third quarter with a leg injury, but he re-entered and appeared to be healthy.

### **09.02.11 Lancaster @ Mason H.S. 41-35 win**

Written by The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER -- Ethan Bond ran 6 yards for a touchdown in overtime Friday to clinch a nonleague win for the visiting Golden Gales against the Comets.

Luke Roberts made a 75-yard touchdown run for Lancaster (2-0) in the first quarter. In the second quarter, Andrew Shisler scored from 5 yards out.

Bond had an 8-yard touchdown in the third quarter. Roberts had touchdown runs of 1 and 34 yards in the fourth.

Lancaster had 40 rushing attempts for 381 yards and had six rushing touchdowns. Bond had 77 yards on 12 carries, Russ King had 93 yards on 17 attempts, Roberts had 120 yards on six carries, and Shisler had 91 yards on five attempts.

### **9.09.11 Lancaster vs. Twinsburg H.S. 35-27 L**

Written by Vince Nairn The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER -- After a first half that saw 42 total points and no punts, special-teams

blunders cost Lancaster.

A fumbled punt, an unsuccessful fake punt and the legs of running back John Barton allowed Twinsburg to score 14 second-half points Friday and beat the Golden Gales 35-27 at Fulton Field.

"We made too many mistakes in all three phases of the game," coach Rob Carpenter said. "They're a talented team, and they're gonna make you pay."

Lancaster (2-1) had the ball in Twinsburg territory in the final minute, but Riley Theiss' fourth-down pass was incomplete, and the Tigers (2-1) celebrated the win in the first meeting of the two teams.

The Gales used their final timeout with 56 seconds to go as there appeared to be some confusion offensively. After the timeout, more confusion almost caused a delay of game penalty before Theiss got the snap off and was sacked.

"They found some of our weaknesses and hit some seams and made a lot of plays," Carpenter said.

With the game tied at 21 at halftime, the Gales stopped Twinsburg on its first three second-half possessions. But a fumbled punt on the third one gave the ball back to the Tigers. Barton, who had 107 rushing yards and four total touchdowns, gave the Tigers a 28-21 lead a few plays later.

On their next possession, the Gales tried a fake punt run on fourth down from its own 35. But Luke Roberts was stopped, and Barton added another touchdown moments later.

"He's a talented athlete," Carpenter said of Barton. "(Twinsburg) has good players. They play in a good league. They didn't lay down."

The offenses were on display in the first half. Lancaster's first two drives lasted 27 plays and took more than 13 minutes off the clock. Two touchdown runs from Roberts and another from Russ King accounted for the Gales' 21 first-half points.

But Lancaster couldn't stop Twinsburg, either. Neither team punted in the half, and a 90-yard kick return by Barton tied the game at 21 with 2:41 to play in the first half.

The Gales also made special accommodations Friday to remember the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

About 500 American flags lined the walkway to Fulton Field.

Before the game, another large flag was carried on to the field behind Lancaster's marching band.

The marching band combined with the LHS choir to perform "America the Beautiful" at halftime.

"It helps the younger generation to see what it means, because a lot of kids were too young to remember," choir director Sandy McCoy said. "I don't think we can do enough to honor those whose lives were lost."

Marching band percussion director Bruce Gerken organized the performance with the choir.

"The band and choir coming together, we kind of signified the unity we, as a country, need to have."

All active and former military personnel were admitted in the game for free.

**09.16.11 Lancaster vs. Pickerington Central H.S. 21-0 L**

**09.23.11 Lancaster @ Lincoln H.S. 17-0 L**

**09.30.11 Lancaster @ Grove City H.S. 28-7 W**

Written by Vince Nairn The Eagle-Gazette Staff

GROVE CITY -- Luke Roberts shoved down a Grove City defender and ran over him, breaking free on his way to a 40-yard touchdown run on Lancaster's second drive.

The run set the tone for Friday's game, as the Golden Gales broke away from their recent offensive struggles.

Roberts rushed for 192 yards and two touchdowns, the Golden Gales had 422 yards of offense and they beat Grove City 28-7 in an Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio Division game to get back to .500 and keep their playoff hopes alive.

"That's exactly what he does. He runs over people," coach Rob Carpenter said of Roberts. "I don't want to overuse him, because everybody knows who he is and they all try to take shots at him, but he keeps running over them."

After amassing no more than 150 yards each of the past two weeks, Lancaster averaged 8.5 yards per rush on 48 attempts. The long runs that disappeared with the Gales' offense recently resurfaced Friday, as Lancaster had eight runs of 18 or more yards.

Freshman Alex Butsko, starting at quarterback for the injured Riley Theiss, completed the only pass he threw and managed the Lancaster offense well.

"Butsko did an outstanding job," Carpenter said. "If we lose this game, we're all bummed out and playing for pride. At least now we're still in it. He did a tremendous job, and I'm really proud of him."

The second half had an inauspicious start for the Gales (3-3, 1-2). Leading 14-0, they forced a punt to start the third quarter, but the ball hit a Lancaster player for the second consecutive week and Grove City recovered.

The Greyhounds (2-4, 1-2) scored to cut Lancaster's lead to 14-7, but Roberts responded with a 54-yard touchdown on the next drive for a 21-7 Gales lead.

After a failed fake punt early in the fourth quarter, another 40-yard run by Roberts set up a 2-yard touchdown by Russ King for a 28-7 lead.

"The combination (of running backs) worked good, with (Roberts) and King and the other backs. They are doing a great job."

Roberts' first touchdown gave the Gales a 7-0 lead, and Andrew Shisler made it 14-0 on an 18-yard run three plays into the second quarter.

The Gales, battered by injuries, have at least five starters out for the season. Still, the offensive line led the Gales, and the defense held the Greyhounds.

"For our wing-T to be successful, the backs have to block," Carpenter said. "It's not just the offensive line. There's one guy running and the quarterback. The other nine better be blocking, and tonight they were."

The Gales still must win out to have any chance at the playoffs, but Friday's win gave them a jolt. They broke their first three-game losing streak since 2008, and perhaps gave them more hope.

#### **10.07.11 Lancaster vs. Reynoldsburg H.S. 13-2 L**

#### **10.14.11 Lancaster @ Pickerington North H.S. 49-14 L**

#### **10.21.11 Lancaster @ Groveport-Madison H.S. 27-25 W**

Written by The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER-- The exuberant cheering heard inside Lancaster's locker room minutes after their 27-25 win at Groveport on Friday night is normally reserved for playoff caliber games.

That's exactly how the Gales looked at their last two games of the season.

While a 1-5 swoon left Lancaster out of the playoff picture, the embattled Gales didn't opt to seemingly play out their last two games of the regular season. Instead, Lancaster is playing for pride, their past, and their senior class. Winning their last road and home games is a big deal to this team, a consolation as well as a reward for their perseverance.

One of the players who have epitomized Lancaster's resolve was Russ King, who battled back from a shoulder injury to rush for 201 yards and two touchdowns against Groveport.

"Our guys have hung in there and haven't put their heads down," Gales coach Rob Carpenter said. "We're playing for the respect of our program. We were 73-27 over the last ten years, and have been one of the better teams in central Ohio. If we can win next week to get to 5-5, that's quite an accomplishment after the injuries that we've dealt with."

A week after surrendering 49 points against Pickerington North, senior defensive end Aaron Woosley led a united defensive effort by Lancaster on Friday night. After Woosley shut down Groveport's two-point attempt to tie the score midway through the fourth quarter, the defense stiffened and forced a turnover on downs at midfield with under a minute left.

"We talked about how each of us had to zone in on each person's job going into this game," Woosley said. "These last two games are important to us... it hasn't been the season that we wanted, but we want to end the season as winners. We want to show respect to this program, and the people that played before us."

#### **10.28.11 Lancaster vs. Newark H.S. - SENIOR NIGHT 35-13 W**

Written by The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER -- Lancaster's snakebitten 2011 season ended on a high note Friday.

The Golden Gales made countless defensive stands against rival Newark in a 35-13 victory at Fulton Field in the Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio Division finale. The injury-riddled Gales lost five of six games after a 2-0 start, but they finished with two consecutive wins.

"Obviously, it has been a difficult season with everything we've done with a lot of injuries, and it was not exactly what we wanted," Lancaster senior Luke Roberts said. "It was really important to come out here against our rival and get a big win."

Newark's spread offense was effective between the 30-yard lines, but Lancaster (5-5, 3-4) always had a big play in its back pocket. The Wildcats (0-10, 0-7) moved into Lancaster territory on five consecutive possessions, but the Gales held them to seven points during that stretch.

The Gales finished with 10 sacks of Newark sophomore quarterback Grant Russell. The entire front seven could have been credited on a few of them as the Wildcats had no answer for the Gales' blitzes.

"We didn't execute all of the time, but we made big plays when it counted," Roberts said.

"That is what it came down to."

Junior Andrew Shisler carried the offensive load, scoring four touchdowns on runs of 6, 86, 55 and 39. The Wildcats had a hard time locating the ball out of Lancaster's wing-T formation, and Shisler often was behind them down the sideline before they saw him.

Shisler's final two long scoring runs sandwiched a Newark three-and-out that included two sacks and turned a competitive 21-7 game into a rout.

Shisler finished with 240 yards on only 10 carries. Freshman Jerry King, the hero in the Gales' victory against Groveport a week ago, added 80 yards on only seven carries.

"The linemen did a really good job blocking," Shisler said. "I have made some really good

friends over the season. It really made my day to be able to go out there and get them a win."

King's 48-yard return on the opening kickoff set up the Gales at the Newark 27-yard line. Five plays later, Shisler scored his first touchdown on a 6-yard run.

After the Gales forced a three-and-out, Shisler broke free at the line of scrimmage and outran the Wildcats for an 86-yard touchdown run to put the Gales up 14-0 less than five minutes into the game.

Newark responded to cut the lead to 14-7, but the Gales answered. King's 42-yard run on the first play of the second quarter put the ball at the Newark 3, and Roberts then scored on a 1-yard run.

The Gales maintained that lead at halftime thanks to a pair of big defensive stands. Isaiah Kirchgessner and Roberts had consecutive sacks to end a drive inside the 35, and Roberts had another sack right before half.