

Gateway's speed on both sides of ball too much for Wildcats

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Rain and murky conditions can be a great equalizer in football.

Can.

It didn't faze Gateway at all against Greater Latrobe.

Gateway still rolled up 381 yards in the slop last night at Memorial Stadium in Latrobe. But as good as the Gators are on offense — they've now scored 143 points in three games — all of that athleticism and skill also translates over to their defense.

That — and linebacker Dorian Bell in particular — was the first thing Greater Latrobe head coach Pat Murray talked about after Gateway held the Wildcats to the tune of 88 yards and no points in a 42-0 beating to open their WPIAL Quad-A South Conference play.

"They're a pretty solid football team, especially defensively," was how Murray put it.

It didn't help that the average starting field position for Gateway (1-0, 3-0), ranked No. 3 in the nation, on five of its six scoring drives was the Greater Latrobe (0-1, 1-2) 48-yard line.

And the one time the Gators



Darryn Fiscus (46), Tony Lamosek (64) and Jeff Kerila of Greater Latrobe attempt to chase down Gateway's Dorian Bell, who turns the corner for one of his long runs. Bell totaled 126 yards rushing on just four carries and scored three touchdowns.

And the one time the Gators scored after starting at their own 12, it took them all of two plays when the aforementioned Bell — yes, he can do it on offense, too — went 90 yards following a loss on first down.

Part of the reason Gateway scored such a short field to work with was the five fumbles by Greater Latrobe. The Gators did throw three interceptions, but their defense was able to protect the shutout.

The first of those interceptions came late in the first half with the score already standing at 21-0.

Defensive back Matt Blank picked off Rob Kalkstein at the Gateway 48, and after quarterback Eric Shaffer ran 12 yards and threw to wide receiver Ryan LaDuke for nine more, GL had second and one at the 27.

But defensive back Jeff Parrish came on a blitz and sacked Shaffer and then batted down a pass, making it fourth and 11. Shaffer was then sacked again, and the Wildcats turned the ball over on downs this time all the way back at the 44.

"Part of what they were doing was blitzing us, and we were trying to hit the hot route to our outside guys," Murray explained. "But they were so fast defensively, they would run us down."

When Gateway took over, there was just 43.8 seconds left in the second quarter.

But that was more than enough time for the Gators to get on the board once more before the half.

Kalkstein completed two passes to wide receiver Josh Vermeulen for 15 and 39 yards, giving Gateway first and goal at the 2.

Running back Brian Williams then carried twice, going in from a yard out with Ryan Lichtenstein kicking one of his six extra points with eight seconds to spare.

downs.

Gateway 42

Greater Latrobe 0

	G	GL
First downs	11	8
Rushes-yds	31-232	33-34
Passing yds	149	54
Passes-int	8-17-3	9-18-0
Fumbles-lost	2-1	5-5
Penalties-yds	7-50	1-14
Punts-avg	1-42	4-28.8
Total offense	381	88

Score by Quarters

Gateway	14	14	0	14	—	42
Gr. Latrobe	0	0	0	0	—	0

Scoring

G—Bell 15 run (Lichtenstein kick)
 G—Williams 1 run (Lichtenstein kick)
 G—Brown 10 pass from Kalkstein (Lichtenstein kick)
 G—Williams 1 run (Lichtenstein kick)
 G—Bell 90 run (Lichtenstein kick)
 G—Bell 14 run (Lichtenstein kick)

Rushing

G—Bell 4-126; Williams 14-48; Blackmon 1-30; Brisker 3-13; Jones 1-4; Kalkstein 2-4; Bey 1-3; Parrish 2-3; Nunley 2-1; Tyler 1-(-2)
 GL—Burkley 11-36; LaDuke 2-8; Taylor 1-1; Kerila 1-0; Shaffer 16-(-4); Matsko 2-(-7)

Passing

G—Kalkstein 8-16-2-149; Brisker 0-1-1-0
 GL—Shaffer 9-17-0-54; Matsko 0-1-0-0

Receiving

G—Brown 4-81; Vermeulen 2-54; Blackmon 1-8; Varnka 1-6
 GL—LaDuke 4-21; Lonigro 1-11; Shields 1-11; Burkley 2-8; Gondosh 1-3

Then came the one time Greater Latrobe moved the ball on Gateway.

It was in the third quarter, when the Wildcats ran 21 offensive plays to three for the Gators and had the ball for more than 10 of the 12 minutes.

There was just one problem. Other than the 74 yards GL went, it had absolutely nothing to show for it.

The 'Cats started on their 20 following an interception by linebacker Brad Burkley in the endzone.

Seventeen plays later, along with a personal-foul penalty against Gateway for a late hit on Shaffer out of bounds, they were at the Gators' 10 after

actually getting down to the 6. But faced with fourth down and seven, Shaffer was tackled for a two-yard loss.

"You have to finish that kind of drive," Murray stressed. "When you look up at the scoreboard and it still says zero, that's not a positive.

"That's kind of been one of our problems this year. We haven't been able to finish drives."

To make matters worse, Gateway's big-play, quick-strike offense did just that.

After Delbert Tyler was stopped for a loss, Williams gathered in a toss to the left, got the corner and streaked down the sideline for a 90-yard touchdown run and a 35-0 advantage just 16 seconds into the fourth quarter.

And the Gators would score once more following yet another GL fumble.

This time, they had to go only 23 yards with Bell taking a deep handoff to his right, cutting back against the flow and

rambling 14 yards for the final TD of the game.

Gateway also scored twice in the first quarter. Williams capped a 60-yard drive on the Gators' initial possession by going off left tackle and then breaking to the outside, set up by a run of 30 by wide receiver Andrew Blackmon on a reverse, and then a one-yard burst off right guard.

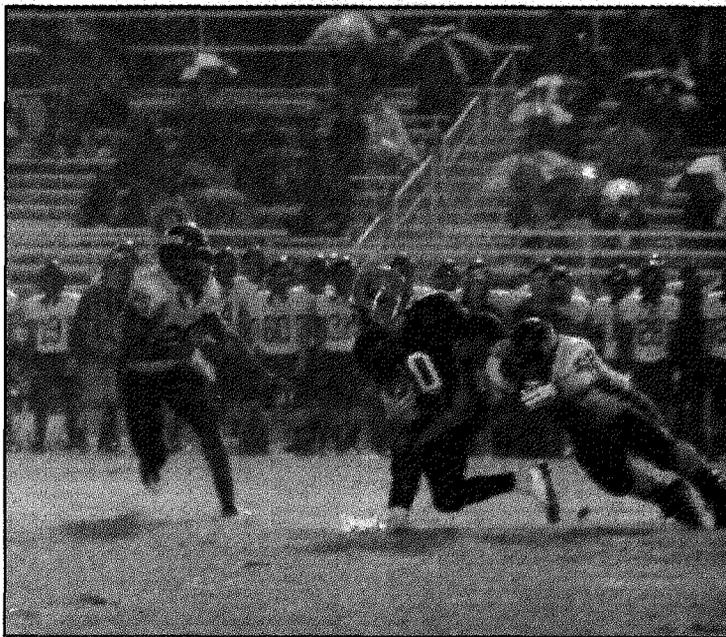
Thanks to his long touchdown run, Bell finished with 126 yards rushing on just four carries while Williams added 48 on 14.

Kalkstein completed eight of 16 passes for 149 yards.

For Greater Latrobe, Shaffer was nine of 17 for only 54 yards. Burkley was limited to 36 on the ground in 11 attempts.

The Wildcats will be looking for their first conference victory next Friday when they travel to Connellsville.

The Falcons remained winless on the season after a 67-7 thumping by McKeesport Area.



GL quarterback Eric Shaffer gets dragged down by Gateway players after a short gain.