

PEACHTREE RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Lions kill time, Devils Peachtree Ridge win sets up region showdown

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SUWANEE — In mist and cool weather, Peachtree Ridge didn't give people a reason to stick around.

The Lions wasted away the final 7 minutes and 40 seconds with short running plays and ended the 14-play drive with no points.

But it did end the game. Peachtree Ridge drove 65 yards over those plays, converted two third downs and one fourth down and capped the drive with a knee by quarterback Nick Lombardo and a 20-10 win over Norcross.

"I was proud of our offense to take control of the game," Lions head coach Bill Ballard said. "That is what you are supposed to do when you have the ball and the lead."

Four different players rushed the ball for the Lions on the game-sealing drive, all staying in bounds as the offensive line pushed back a worn down Blue Devil defense.

"They did a good job in what we call our four-minute offense," Ballard said. "It was actually seven minutes, but what we do with our four-minute offense is try to kill the ball when you have the lead and I was really proud of them for finishing the way they are supposed

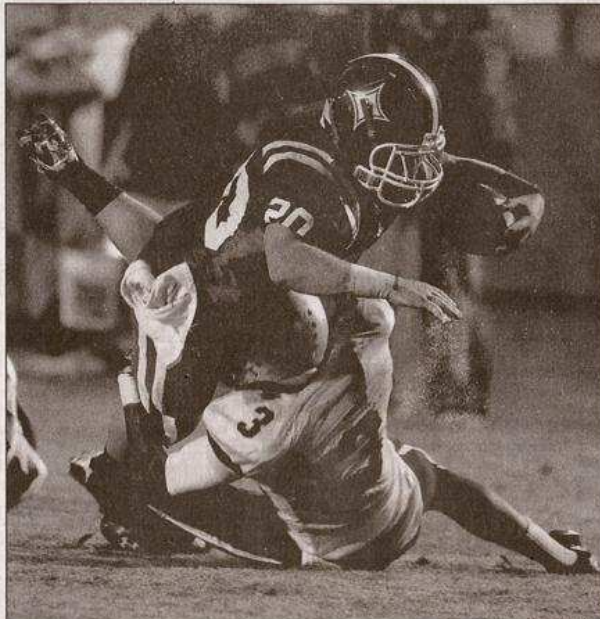


Photo: Kevin Hinton

Peachtree Ridge's Chris Sawdey (20) runs through Norcross' Arius Wright (3) to score a touchdown during Friday night's game at Peachtree Ridge.

to." The win sets up a Region 7-A-AAAA championship showdown between the Lions and North Gwinnett next week. It's a game the Lions won last season and a game Norcross twice won in

recent years.

But after Peachtree Ridge bled away the final minutes, the Blue Devils were left considering inconsistent play on both sides of the ball.

Norcross' two scoring drives were long marches with

quarterback Ronald Rose completing seven of his nine passes, including completions of 33 and 29 yards to Jeremy Davis who had four catches for 70 yards. In the two scoring drives, the Blue Devils picked up seven first

**PEACHTREE RIDGE 20,
NORCROSS 10**

Norcross	0	3	0	7	-10
PTree Ridge	7	7	3	3	-20

FIRST QUARTER
Peachtree Ridge: Nasir Moore 33 pass from Nick Lombardo (Justin Watts kick) 5:01

SECOND QUARTER
Peachtree Ridge: Chris Sawdey 15 run (Watts kick) 9:44
Norcross: Connor Hawk 26 FG, 8:32

THIRD QUARTER
Peachtree Ridge: Watts 27 FG, 3:30

FOURTH QUARTER
Peachtree Ridge: Watts 30 FG 11:08
Norcross: Kendrick Hult 10 run (Hawk kick) 7:42

	Norcross	PTree
First downs	7	19
Plays-yards	22-56	45-249
Passing yards	118	151
Comp-Att-Int	9-15-1	9-15-2
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	4-30	7-50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Peachtree Ridge: Sawdey 18-105; Lombardo 14-86; Steve Atwater 7-42; Brandon Stanley 6-6; Norcross: Kendrick Hult 6-29; Arius Wright 2-14; Seth Hensley 2-8; Delino DeShields 5-3; Ronald Rose 7-3.

Passing — Peachtree Ridge: Lombardo 9-15-1; Norcross: Rose 9-15-2.

Receiving — Peachtree Ridge: Brad Roby 2-46; Stanley 2-37; Moore 1-33; Willie Udofia 2-23; Angelo Watley 2-12; Norcross: Jeremy Davis 4-70; Wright 3-27; DeShields 1-23; Hult 1-1; 2).

downs.

They didn't have another first down all game.

"They can look really good at times," said Norcross coach Keith Maloof of his team, which scored its touchdown in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 10. "The kids played hard. I am proud of them. We battled."

Peachtree Ridge didn't make it easy. The Lions

sacked Rose twice and held the Blue Devils to 56 yards on the ground and only allowed five rushes of more than five yards.

"One thing is we don't want them to score, so we aren't completely happy with that," Ballard said. "I felt like the defense did play good. They have some really explosive players."

So do the Lions.

Lombardo threw for 151 yards and rushed for 86 yards. He connected with Nasir Moore on a deep fade for a 33-yard score in the first half and twice found Brad Roby for 46 yards. Roby's third catch came for Norcross' Rose to undo a 48-yard kickoff return by Delino DeShields in the second half.

Then there was Chris Sawdey. The senior pounded through Norcross for a game-high 105 yards, including a 20-yard touchdown run.

"He's thicker," Ballard said. "He's a good running back and he's strong. He does have great vision."

He'll need both next week against North as the Lions defend the region title against the unbeaten Bulldogs.

"We are excited we won and now we have to go get ready for North Gwinnett," Ballard said. "It's almost unfair how much talent they have over there."

