



By Travis McConnell

Sports Writer

The Wallace Wildcats hit the road last Thursday, as they traveled four-and-a-half hours to O'Neill to take on the St. Mary's Cardinals in the first round of the state playoffs.

The Cardinals used the offensive and defensive play of Tait Sibbel to roll to a 66-0 win.

Sibbel had a hand in eight St. Mary's touchdowns and four rushing two-point conversions for a total of 56 points.

After forcing a Wildcat punt on its first possession, the Cardinals used 10 plays to get on the board first. The drive started at the Cardinal 17-yard line and included two key third- down conversions, one on third and five and one on a th

Kyle Loecker capped the drive on a 10-yard touchdown run to give St. Mary's a 6-0 lead midway through the first quarter.

Then Sibbel took over. Following another Wildcat punt, Sibbel scored three plays later on a 10-yard run. Sibbel also added the two-point conversion to make the score 14-0 with 3:47 to play in the first quarter.

Forty seconds later, Sibbel scooped up a Wallace fumble and raced 19 yards for a touchdown. He also added the two-point conversion to increase the lead to 22-0.

Sibbel wasn't done in the first quarter either. Three plays after forcing the third Wildcat punt of the quarter, the quarterback scored on a 47-yard draw play to make the score 28-0 as time expired in the first quarter.

The second quarter wasn't much better for the Wildcats as St. Mary's scored three more times on a 21-yard pass from Sibbel to Ryan Podany, a 22-yard interception return by Sibbel and a four yard run by Sibbel.

At halftime the Cardinals led 52-0.

The second half moved quickly because of the 35-point rule, which allows for a continuous running clock once a team trails by 35 or more points in the second half.

The Wildcats forced a punt on the Cardinals first possession of the second half, but were unable to pick up a first down.

When the Cardinals got the ball back they scored the only touchdown of the third quarter when Sibbel hit Loecker with a swing pass that Loecker took 39 yards to the end zone. Sibbel added

the two-point conversion to make the score 60-0 with 4:57 to play in the third quarter.

Jared Tomjack scored the last touchdown of the game for St. Mary's with 1:08 to play in the game. The three-yard touchdown run made the score 66-0.

Sean May led the Wildcats with 60 yards rushing on 24 carries.

The Wildcats finished the season 4-5.