

### Cardinals record first shutout with 49-0 victory over Falcons

October 14, 2024 | Yadkin Ripple, The (Yadkinville, NC) Author: Cory Smith csmith@mtairynews.com| Section: Game | 943 Words OpenURL Link

PILOT MOUNTAIN — The East Surry Cardinals gave their home fans a show in their return to David H. Diamont Stadium

East Surry forced four takeaways in the Oct. 11 game against Forbush and turned each one into points. The Cardinals blocked a punt then recovered it for a touchdown, recovered another fumble and grabbed two interceptions in the 49-0 victory.

Friday's Foothills 2A Conference win marked the Cardinals' first shutout of the season, while the Falcons were shut out for just the second time in 2024.

The Cardinals (4-2, 2-0 FH2A) have forced an interception in all six games this season, and the Oct. 11 game was their first with multiple picks. The win over the Falcons was the Cards' second game of the year with multiple fumble recoveries, as well as the team's second game with a punt block.

Forbush (2-5, 0-3 FH2A) was held to 2.2 yards per carry. Josh Key led East Surry with three tackles for a loss, while Porter Gibson, Hatcher Hamm, Jackson Key and Aaden Wright each added one TFL. Braden Snow had East's punt block, and both he and Gibson recovered a fumble.

The visiting Falcons had some success in the air as quarterback Tyler Winters completed 13-of-24 passes for 140 yards. However, the QB was picked off twice — first by Hamm, then by Stevie Keener.

Forbush also turned the ball over on downs twice and punted once.

The Cardinals' offense has also been rolling during the team's recent three-game winning streak. The streak began with a 48-3 win over South Stokes on Sept. 12. East went more than three weeks between games due to its bye week then a postponement due to Hurricane Helene, but picked right back up with a 61-14 win at Wilkes Central on Oct. 4

East has scored 104 unanswered points dating back to the second quarter of its win over Wilkes Central.

Friday's matchup with Forbush was East Surry's first home game since the season opener on Aug. 23. The Cardinals' opening drive ended with a punt, but Hamm's interception put the offense back on the field. The Cards proceeded to score on each of their next six possessions.

East Surry rode its ground game for 337 rushing yards. The Cards have surpassed 330 rushing yards in three games this season after doing so just three times across the entire 2023 season.

The Cardinals have averaged at least 12.5 yards per carry and scored at least five rushing touchdowns in each game of their recent win streak.

Troy Watson followed up his 193-yard performance on Oct. 4 by carrying 12 times against the Falcons for 151 yards and two touchdowns. Also finding the end zone twice was Noah Felts, who finished with three carries for 78 yards and two touchdowns. Hamm, who ran for 27 yards, was the only other Cardinal with multiple carries.

Six Cardinals recorded one carry each, including freshman Jon Hutchens who ran in his first varsity touchdown in the fourth quarter. Carter Motsinger complimented East's ground game by completing 3-of-6 passes for 49 yards. Motsinger found Stevie Keener for an 8-yard strike in the second quarter — Keener's sixth receiving touchdown of the year — then the pair connected again for a 2-point conversion in the third quarter.

Zach Keener added one reception for 33 yards, and Braxton Davis had one reception for 8 yards.

East Surry is one of two FH2A teams still unbeaten in league competition. East is 2-0, and defending Foothills 2A Conference Champion North Surry sits at 4-0. Surry Central and West Wilkes sit in third place at 2-1, followed by Wilkes Central at 2-3, Forbush at 0-3 and North Wilkes at 0-4.

East Surry will travel to North Wilkes on Oct. 18. Forbush goes on the road the same day to face Surry Central.

ScoringForbush -0, 0, 0, 0-0

East Surry — 7, 20, 15, 7 — 49

1Q

3:44 ES Touchdown — Noah Felts 4-yard rush (Braden Snow PAT) — 0-7

2Q

7:29 ES Touchdown — Troy Watson 23-yard rush (Braden Snow PAT) — 0-14

4:33 ES Touchdown — Noah Felts 56-yard rush (Braden Snow PAT) — 0-21

0:04 ES Touchdown — Stevie Keener 6-yard reception on Carter Motsinger pass (2-point conversion failed) — 0-27

3Q

 $6:50~{\rm ES}~{\rm Touchdown-Troy}~{\rm Watson}~9\mbox{-yard}~{\rm rush}~({\rm Braden}~{\rm Snow}~{\rm PAT})-0\mbox{-}34$ 

3:07 ES Touchdown — Porter Gibson fumble recovery on Braden Snow punt block (Stevie Keener 2-point conversion reception on Carter Motsinger pass) — 0-42

**4Q** 

5:57 ES Touchdown — Jon Hutchens 8-yard rush (Braden Snow PAT) — 0-49

Offensive StatsForbush Falcons

**TEAM** 

Pass: 140 yards on 13 completions

Rush: 71 yards on 32 carries

Total: 211 yards

INDIVIDUAL

Passing: Tyler Winters 13-of-24 for 140 yards, two interceptions

Receiving: Joseph Barnes six reception for 64 yards; Alex Clevenger three reception for 42 yards; Hayden Bales two receptions for 20 yards; Alan Benitez one reception for 10 yards; Giovanni Valerio-Real one reception for 4 yards

Rushing: Giovanni Valerio-Real 19 carries for 52 yards; Skylar Kimber two carries for 10 yards; Tyler Winters 11 carries for 9 yards

Kicking: N/A

East Surry Cardinals

**TEAM** 

Pass: 49 yards and one touchdown on three completions

Rush: 337 yards and five touchdowns on 27 carries

Total: 386 total yards and seven touchdowns

**INDIVIDUAL** 

Passing: Carter Motsinger 3-of-6 for 49 yards, one touchdown

Receiving: Zach Keener one reception for 33 yards; Stevie Keener one reception for 8 yards, one touchdown; Braxton Davis one reception for 8 yards

Rushing: Troy Watson 12 carries for 151 yards, two touchdowns; Noah Felts three carries for 78 yards, two touchdowns; Hatcher Hamm six carries for 27 yards; Luke Bruner one carry for 24 yards; Chris George one carry for 15 yards; Stevie Keener one carry for 15 yards; Carter Motsinger one carry for 14 yards; Jon Hutchens one carry for 8 yards, one touchdown; Nathan Kiger one carry for 5 yards

Kicking: Braden Snow 5-of-5 PATs

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