

Press Clippings 10/27/2017

SPORTS SECTION

---Courier News--- 10/27/17

Four workhorses want to put it all on the line for South Elgin in playoffs

BY PAUL JOHNSON

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Seniors Kyle Viverito, Sami Aldabbagh, Colt Doherty and Dalton Doherty, from left, play on South Elgin's offensive line as well as on defense. (Paul Johnson/The Courier-News)

The backbone of South Elgin's success is a group of four seniors who rarely leave the field.

Sami Aldabbagh, twin brothers Colt and Dalton Doherty and Kyle Viverito are all undersized workhorses who play both ways, even contributing on special teams.

Dalton Doherty (6-foot, 210 pounds) and Viverito (6-2, 194) are offensive tackles. Colt Doherty (6-0, 185) and Aldabbagh (5-10, 210) are guards. Defensively, Aldabbagh plays on the line, while the other three play linebacker.

"We all kind of realize that we're going through the same thing, and we just fight and realize why we're doing it," Dalton Doherty said. "We're doing it to help the team and the guy next to us."

South Elgin coach Pat Pistorio acknowledged it's not an ideal situation to ask so much from four players. But the way it has played out leaves him convinced it can work with the right group.

"Their offseason preparation allowed them the chance to do this," Pistorio said. "As a coach, you're worried about having to do that."

"But they've developed a plan that's rather unique and something that we might not be afraid of looking into again because of the success they've had. It really is a testament to what kind of people they are."

At 270 pounds, junior center Noah Hercl is the only lineman for the Storm (8-1) with true size.

The other four came up as primarily defensive players for South Elgin. As the offseason wore on, and the need for a stabilized offensive line to flank Hercl became apparent, Pistorio put his trust in this group.

"It was just a matter of who was going to put in the time, lift the weights and buy into the program," Pistorio said. "We just really built around those guys."

The combination of communication and understanding each individual's skill set has been a key component.

"I feel like as an O-line we complement each other well because some of us have strengths compared to other's weaknesses," Colt Doherty said. "I feel like we compensate (for the lack of size) by using our athletic talents."

"Overall, I just feel that as a team we don't have any big weaknesses because people to the right and left of you are going to fill in for you."

When star quarterback Nate Gomez or any of the Storm's other skill players score touchdowns and get the recognition, the team's unsung heroes also bask in the glory.

"When we see Nate in the end zone, it feels really good that we did our part and we were part of that success for our team," Aldabbagh said.

There has been a ton of success this season for South Elgin.

The Storm looks to keep it rolling at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Streamwood in the first round of the Class 8A playoffs. The 10th-seeded Storm face 23rd-seeded Palatine (6-3), with the chance to meet either Edwardsville or Huntley in the second round.

"The energy has definitely been more up-tempo, knowing that we're going to the playoffs with a high seed and a good record," Viverito said. "Everybody (at school) has been cheering us on. We're building some school pride."

Press Clippings 10/29/2017

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 10/29/17

Simply put, Palatine handles South Elgin

BY SCOTT MILLER

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Palatine's Johnny O'Shea (80) moves upfield Saturday against South Elgin during the Pirates' 24-3 Class 8A football playoff wins at Millennium Field in Streamwood.

Nice and simple.

That's the way Palatine coach Corey Olson likes to keep things. There was certainly nothing complicated about the 23rd-seeded Pirates' approach on Saturday as they played stellar defense and kept the chains moving on offense in a resounding 24-3 win over 10th-seeded South Elgin at Millennium Field in Streamwood in the opening round of the Class 8A playoffs.

Palatine (7-3) will host No. 26 seed Edwardsville (7-3) in the second round.

Palatine led just 7-3 at the half but took complete command in the second half. On their first 3 possessions of the second half the Pirates went a combined 177 yards on 37 plays with 14 first downs while using up over 17 minutes of the clock. It all resulted in a pair of touchdowns and a field goal that put the game out of reach.

"We knew from a size standpoint that we should be able to control the line of scrimmage," Olson said. "In the second half we felt good about running the ball between the tackles. We weren't looking for plays down the field. We just wanted to keep grinding it out. Their quarterback (Nate Gomez) is really dangerous so we wanted to keep him on the sidelines by holding onto the ball for as long as we could."

Miguel Rocha made it 10-3 with a 20-yard field goal on the Pirates' first possession of the second half. Quarterback DJ Angelaccio then followed with a 6-yard touchdown run to make it 17-3 with 9:12 left in the game. Angelaccio finished with 30 yards on 11 carries and also threw for 62 yards on 6 of 11 passing.

"It came down to the physical play in the trenches," Angelaccio said. "Our offensive line did an excellent job of executing their blocks and we were able to just grind it out. We've

played a tough schedule and played a lot of tough games to get this point. That has helped a lot. We really felt prepared so a lot of credit has to go to our athletic department."

Marcus Stoudemire added a 7-yard touchdown run for the Pirates' final score with 3:56 remaining on the clock. Stoudemire was Palatine's leading rusher with 77 yards on 14 carries.

"It's taken hard work and focus to get here," Stoudemire said. "We just had to keep believing and trusting in one another. Coach was motivating us to play more aggressive and I felt like we got stronger as the game went on."

The Pirates' defense held the Storm to just 154 yards of offense.

"We like to keep it simple," Olson said. "We pride ourselves on just going out and executing. We were flying to the ball today and when we get there we like to hit people."

South Elgin (8-2) had two costly fumbles in the first half. The first came on a botched punt attempt that gave Palatine the ball at the South Elgin 39. It led to the Pirates' first score, a 6-yard touchdown run by Jack Orlando with 2:23 left in the first quarter.

The Storm coughed the ball up again at the Palatine 17 when they were driving late in the second quarter.

The Storm's only points came on a 22-yard field goal by Andrew Bucaro after they were unable to punch the ball into the end zone on 3 attempts from the 1-yard line.

"Putting the ball on the ground and some missed opportunities definitely hurt us," South Elgin coach Pat Pistorio said. "You have to hand it to Palatine though. Their defense was on point. They were able to expose some mismatches up front and made it difficult on us. I'm still very proud of our kids. They have given a great effort all year."

Gomez had 62 yards rushing on 22 carries and 91 yards passing while completing 13 of 22 passes.