

2007 JVFL Pee-Wee Championship

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LEWISTOWN — The number 13 unlucky?

It proved to be so Sunday in both Juniata Valley Pee Wee and Midget Super Bowls.

If you were a fan from McVeytown or a fan for the Little Mingo, 13 was not the number you wanted to see.

In the Pee Wee Super Bowl, the Lewistown Panthers and their number 13 Isaiah Kearns proved to be too much for a scrappy McVeytown team winning 28-13.

“I am proud of all our kids,” Lewistown coach Mark Hidlay said. “We’ve had pretty good chemistry all year. The guys up front blocked well, especially in the second half. Isaiah had a heck of a game.”

Kearns cut and juke his way to a 156-yard rushing performance along with 4 touchdowns including a 63-yard punt return.

McVeytown was led by the running of Noah Stewart who ran for 68 yards on eight attempts.

Lewistown opened the contest with the ball on its own 47, it took the Panthers only five plays to put the first points on the board.

With 5:18 left in the first, Kearns got around the outside and never looked back scoring on a 36-yard touchdown. On the extra point, the Panthers handed the ball to Kearns once again, putting Lewistown up 7-0.

But the Eagles battled right back.

On McVeytown’s second play from scrimmage Stewart broke outside of the Panther defenders and blazed his way into the end zone, cutting the lead to 7-6.

Unfortunately for the Eagles, the extra point failed.

“The first half we did more than any other team in the league this year did on them all we scored on them twice not once but twice,” McVeytown coach Dave Haubrick said. “Our kids fought their heart all year had a great year they deserved this right now in my minds their champions.”

After holding the Panthers on its second possession, the Eagles had the ball and was looking to put some more points on the board, starting at their own 32.

But the Panthers defense was tough and forced the Eagles to punt the ball away.

As the ball was punted, Kearns caught the pigskin and used his speed and cutting skills to the sound of a 63-yard punt return, putting the Panthers up 13-6.

McVeytown had one last statement to make in the first half, after going on a 13-play drive, the Eagles found pay dirt.

It was a Drew-to-Drew combination.

With 15 seconds left, Drew Willams found a wide open Drew Harshbarger in the back of the end zone, cutting the lead to one once again.

However, the score would stay that way as the teams went into the intermission.

In the second half, Kearns continued to get the best of a McVeytown defense that tried to contain him but couldn’t on this day.

With 3:35 to go in the third quarter, Kearns picked up his shortest touchdown of the night cashing it in from nine yards out. With a successful PAT, the Panthers led 20-12.

Now it was up to the Panthers defense to keep the Eagles off the board and protect their lead. And they did.

After forcing the Eagles to a punt, Kearns made his last touchdown a memorable one as he scored from 49 yards out. With the PAT, the Panthers all but put the game on ice, winning 28-12.

With the win, the Panthers ended its season with a perfect 11-0 record while the Eagles finished 9-1.