

## 2010 PEE-WEE SUPER BOWL

By Kenny Varner

Pee Wee

LEWISTOWN - Looking to repeat, the State College Little Lions brought in a strong ground game with them and a perfect record in the 2010 Juniata Valley Football League Championship.

In their repeat bid, the Lions went up against a very relentless Little Mingo team. State brought its A-game early and often as it went on to the 32-14 victory. Little Lions' runningback Cohen Russell led the Lions' running game Sunday, running for 181 yards on 15 carries.

Despite the loss it was also a night where the Little Mingo showed its heart and refusal to pack things in when the chips are down, outscoring the Little Lions 14-7 in the second half.

On its second possession of the game, State College struck on a 4-play drive starting on its own 16. Three of those plays called for Russell to lead the way. And lead the way he did juking and jiving his way to 69 yards on the drive and culminating the drive on a 49-yard run. After a failed conversion, State College led 6-0.

Disaster struck for the Little Mingo on the following kick off when the Little Lions scooped up a fumble giving them the ball on the Mingo's own 29.

From there, the Little Lions went on another 4-play drive. Russell kept collecting the yardage, setting the Lions up to a 1st and goal on the three as the first quarter expired. When the second quarter got underway, the call was for co-captain Tommy Friberg to cash it in. He did just that. State College converted the two-point conversion upping the lead to 14-0 with 7:55 left in the half.

"We had a great group of 9-year olds. They've been playing well for three years. They were hungry today," State College coach Rob Johnson said. "Cohen (Russell) and Tommy (Friberg) are two hardest workers on the team and two of the nicest kids on the team. Their football skills are a bonus."

It was not a good day for the Mingo's special teams as the ball found its way into the Little Lions possession for the second consecutive kick-off, giving State College another chance to get their offense rolling again.

With 5:12 left in the half Russell picked up his second touchdown of the game as he scampered his way into the endzone from eight yards out, making it 20-0.

As the time started to run out in the second quarter, Friberg picked up his second score of the game. Friberg blasted his way through the middle of the line, increasing the lead to 26-0.

When the two teams went into the intermission, the Lions' defense and special teams kept the Little Mingo in check but things would change as the third quarter got underway.

The Little Mingo played inspired ball in the third quarter, coming out and going right down the field on the Little Lions.

With their backs against the wall and facing a fourth down and long, Noah Wright found teammate Max Oburn on a wide open touchdown pass, erasing the shut out 26-6 with 1:31 left in the third.

After holding State College in check on the next possession, the Little Mingoies were back to it on offense, rolling down the field towards the endzone. This time it took only four plays for the Mingoies to cash it in. Wright called his own number and blazed his way in from five yards out. With a successful 2-point conversion, the Little Mingoies were back to within striking distance, closing the gap to 26-14. However, the night belonged to Russell and company as they put the game out of reach on the following State College possession, culminating in a Jack Clark touchdown with 2:46 left.

"Our kids came a long way this year. We got a lot better," Little Mingoies coach Steve Searer said . "A couple turnovers hurt us in the first half... We told the kids at the half not to quit and you got of be proud of 7,8 and 9 year olds who don't quit. These kids are great. The thing I'm most proud of was they came out in the second half and we might have a chance."

For the Little Lions it was their second in as many year's and another perfect season under their belt as they finished a perfect 12-0.