

Yes, the mighty voice of Ethen Knox could be heard loud and clear -- 218 yards rushing on only 11 carries, six touchdowns and 42 points.

But showing more versatility on offense than last season -- others had something to say in Oil City's 76-0 pummeling of Warren on Aug. 25 in its Region 4, home and season opener:

- The Cole Findlay to Gavin Stephens (both juniors) passing combination;
- and long TD runs by De'Vaughn Griffen and Sean Alexander (not to mention a medium range one by Jon Hargenrader).

And then there was the defense. Watching the game it seemed like less, but the Dragons, often stopped at the line of scrimmage or in the backfield, managed but 57 yards. Their biggest gain was an 18-yard pass completion.

Linebacker Kevin Pearsall led the Oilers with 17 tackles (14 assists) with three TFLs and registered one of the Oilers' five sacks. Only six Oilers were credited with tackles; Ben Garland had eight, and Justen Dunkle and Hayden Wilson added seven apiece. DL Henry Milford made six stops and Noah Sanchez contributed five and recovered a fumble.

Garland, Sanchez, Dunkle and Wilson also had sacks.

It all added up to the most lopsided score in the 123-year-old history of the rivalry and settled that score from 1916 when the Dragons pasted the Oilers, 75-6.

Knox scored on runs of 8, 22, 4, 16, 41 and 33 yards for the first six-TD game of his career -- although he had a school record seven-touchdown game once last season.

The longest TDs, however, came not from Knox, but from reserves De'Vaughn Griffen (63 yards) and newcomer Sean Alexander (52), both in the second half. (Jon Hargendrader delighted the fans with a medium range 30-yard TD.)

Three of Knox's TDs came during a 30-point first quarter when Findlay, a junior making his first start as quarterback, threw a 35-yard scoring strike to Gavin Stephens, another junior. The two later hooked up on a pair of PAT passes.

It was 46-0 at intermission, putting the Mercy Rule into effect for the second half. Knox had two more touchdowns in the second quarter and the his sixth to start the second half.

Fullbacks Pearsall and Garland with runs and a Steven Heise to Spence Singleton pass accounted for the other PATs. So a lot of Oilers hit the scoring column.

The game began on a sour note for the Dragons -- minus 2, minus 4 (Milford in the backfield there) and a 12-yard loss after a blocked punt by Dunkle giving Oil City a first down on the 8. Knox wasted no time getting into the end zone.

Matters got worse for Warren as the Big Blue D recovered from that 18-yard gain the a pass play. And after the Oilers made it 14-0, Griffen came up with the ball on a kickoff to Warren, setting up Oil City's third TD of the quarter. That drive included an 11-yard keeper by Findlay.

His TD pass to Stephens came after another 10-yard loss in which Warren gave the ball up.

And so it went...

The Oilers collected 524 yards total offense -- it seemed like more, but those short scoring drives tend to distort things. They ran for 466 and Findlay completed two of three passes for 58, the other completion going to Hargenrader.