

This time around, the Oilers had their way with Northwestern, pounding the Wildcats, 68-7, behind a six touchdown, 295-yard effort by Ethen Knox in their homecoming game.

Knox, who got his yardage of 25 carries, scored on runs of 41, 28, 4, 4, 35 and 6 yards. It was his second six-touchdown game of the season (the first was against Warren) and he added three PATs to move into the District 10 500 Points Club with 530.

The yardage ran his career total to 6,671 -- good for third on the District 10 all-time list. It also ranks 20th in Pa. schoolboy history. (Among those he passed during this game was former Pitt and Philly Eagles star LeSean McCoy.)

Knox needs to leap over three others before moving into the 7,000 club -- and within range of Meadville's Journey Brown (7,027), the D-10 record-holder. Funny, the Oilers will visit Meadville on Saturday.

As Knox glided along to another big game, there were others who made their mark, including sophomore quarterback Cole Findlay, who tossed a 20-yard TD pass to Gavin Stephens to end the first half and returned an interception 53 yards to start the second.

That INT came after the Wildcats -- remember they upset the Oilers last year amid some controversy -- were successful in recovering an onside kick to open the second half. But on the next play -- boom -- the pick 6 by Findlay and the Oilers were ahead 48-7.

Findlay had another nice 36-yard completion to Jon Hargenrader during the next-to-last scoring drive of the first half.

Then, coach Dan York seemed to forget himself and went a little pass-crazy during the last scoring drive before intermission. Findlay was forced to scramble some, but was effective before finding Stephens in the end zone.

Knox carried only three times in the second half, which featured touchdown runs of 19 yards by Sean Alexander and 13 by De'Vaughn Griffen.

In fact, probably for the first time in OCHS history did we see a trombone player (Steven Heise) hand off to a trumpet player (Griffen) for a touchdown. Yes! Both play in the band!

The game got off to a suspect start, even though the Oilers took a 7-0 lead. Northwestern came to town with a pretty good quarterback, Lloyd Fountain, who kept them on their toes after completing two long passes at the start, one for a touchdown to make it 7-6.

But in the end, Fountain was six-for-16 for 104 yards, and the Oilers suffocated Northwestern's ground game (minus 38 yards).

Oil City registered eight TFLs with Spence Singleton, Jaden Smalley, Kevin Pearsall, Hargenrader, Aaron English, Kamden Reagle, Tim Walentoski and Tanner Kightlingerr all getting into the Wildcat backfield.

Pearsall now has 28 career TFLs, good for No. 2 behind Mario Fontanazza (30) on the modern all-time list.

Pearsall, Smalley, Reagle and 5-8, 192-pound freshman Trenton Grooms added sacks. Grooms also contributed four tackles.

The Oilers racked up 511 yards. Findlay was 3/4 for 65 yards passing and added 47 rushing on four plays. Alexander was 3/33, and senior Justen Dunkle, the first to replace Knox at tailback, was 2/26. Griffen ran to the tune of 2/21.