

Newark Memorial clobbers Fremont

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NEWARK — Going into Friday's game against Fremont High of Oakland, Newark Memorial football coach Rich Swift had two simple goals in mind: Win and avoid injuries. Swift's team obliged him on both counts and rolled to a 42-6 victory.

Eric Stewart led a dominating Cougars running game with 124 yards on 12 carries, including a 33-yard touchdown run to open up the scoring. After a Fremont punt, Newark went to the ground game again, this time with Robert Hawkins taking it in from a yard out to put the Cougars up 14-0. Hawkins had 75 yards on 10 rushes. Michael Gates and Mike Tobin also scored on runs for Newark (3-0), which built a 28-0 lead.

"The offensive line was great tonight," Stewart said. "Every time I touched the ball, I saw a lot of green grass in front of me."

The Tigers, unable to run the ball effectively, turned to the passing game, and found the end zone with 5:20 left in the first half on a 19-yard completion from quarterback Isaac Blandon to receiver Maurice Stroud for their only score. The drive featured timely throws by Blandon, and was aided by several Newark penalties.

Blandon led Fremont with 50 yards passing, while Stroud had three receptions for 37 yards. Clordion Kennedy rushed for 22 yards on 11 carries.

"We didn't execute tonight," Fremont coach Eugene Denard said. "We came in with a game plan, but they stopped our running attack, so we had to pass. We need to improve on everything before league play starts."

Newark Memorial finished the scoring with quarterback Michael Gates hitting Ken Robinson on a 39-yard scoring strike just before halftime, and his brother Myles Gates scooping up a Tiger fumble and returning it 46 yards for the touchdown, to account for the only scoring in the second half. Gates amassed 50 yards rushing on only four attempts.

The Cougars enter MVAL play next week against Washington.

"It is going to be different next week," Swift said. "We'll have two squads that are fairly comparable, they throw the ball well, have a good running game, and their defense is solid. It will be a big challenge."

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