

Steinert's defense delivers in upset of No. 3 Princeton

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SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

HAMILTON — The Steinert High football team's defensive unit was presented with a stiff challenge in containing Princeton's rushing tandem of Josh Gordon and Trevor Barsamian, two of Mercer County's best.

The Spartans defense stood tall for the second week in a row yesterday, limiting Princeton's dynamic duo to 111 yards rushing yards on 33 carries. It also recovered two fumbles and came away with two interceptions as Steinert upset Times-area No. 3 and previously unbeaten Princeton, 14-7.

Steinert evened its record at 2-2. Princeton dropped to 4-1.

Jason Miller keyed the home squad's effort as the senior linebacker had two

tackles behind the line (one sack) and recovered two big fumbles, one in each half thwarting Princeton drives.

"Before practice, we watched film (on Gordon) and everything to get ready for him," Miller said. "We just did our regular front-on defense."

"Our guys up front are Alex Amodei, Mike Garofola, Charles Ahumoro and Tim Ziegler. They wore the guys up front and inside that did the job. I got two fumble recoveries but it's a team effort."

After starting the year with back-to-back losses to Notre Dame and Hightstown, the Spartans kept trying to work out of their 0-2 hole and accomplished their task this week.

"We didn't get down on ourselves after that," Miller said. "Even at practice, we were picking each other up by telling ev-

eryone to keep it up and keep doing hard work and pay attention to film. Defense did a nice job today. I think it really helped us win today."

Steinert scored in the second quarter when it drove 50 yards, capped by quarterback Adam Riese's 3-yard run with 10:02 left in the half. Riese preceded his TD rush with a 24-yard scamper off a busted play that brought the ball to the 3.

Steinert took advantage of good field position to score its second TD after it forced the Tigers to punt out of their own end zone. The Spartans took over at the Princeton 24. Six plays later, Dan Danaso ran in from eight yards out, and Brian Baggaley connected for his second PAT.

Princeton had trouble moving the ball early in the second half, and the Spartan offense ate the clock as Princeton was lim-

ited to just seven plays in the third quarter.

Still, the Tigers had their chances in the fourth quarter and finally cracked the Steinert defense with 7:11 left when after a 16-play drive, Barsamian bowled his way into the end zone from three yards out.

Princeton had one more drive left, but the Little Tigers' last-gasp effort fell short when the Spartans' Vince Fiorello picked off Princeton quarterback Mike Olenchak.

"Their defense did a great job," Princeton head coach Steve Everett said. "The conditions didn't help us when we wanted to throw the ball. They did a great job defensively and they had some guys that played outstanding. They had some guys that we couldn't control in the first half, and they put the clamps on us. We did a little better

job in the second half, and we were able to do a better job blocking, but we came up a little bit short.

"Turnovers always hurt you. Blustery day like today, you put yourself in bad field position, and you can't do the things you want to do. I think we did a great job moving the ball in the second half, we just ran out of time."

Steinert head coach Dan Caruso admitted he liked his defense.

"The defense played well," Caruso said. "They were up for the game with two of the top rushers in the county over there with Princeton, and they knew they had their work cut out for them."

"We challenged them, and they stepped up. Jason did a great job today for us. He's been a two-year starter for us and three-year varsity letter winner, and he plays the game the ways it's supposed to be played."

STEINERT 14, PRINCETON 7

Princeton (4-1) 0 0 0 7-7
Steinert (2-2) 0 14 0 0-14

SECOND QUARTER

5- Riese 3 run (Baggaley kick), 10:02

5- Danaso 3 run (Baggaley kick), 2:22

FOURTH QUARTER

P- Barsamian 3 run (Olenchak kick), 7:11

	P	S
First downs.....	11	14
Rushes-yards.....	37-113	37-202
Passing yards.....	55	37
Comp-Att.....	8-16-2	5-14-0
Points-Avg.....	4-28.5	3-21.5
Fumbles-Lost.....	3-2	2-1
Penalty-Yards.....	5-40	10-95

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Princeton: Barsamian 13-57, Gordon 20-54, Olenchak 6-2; Steinert: Riese 4-24, Mochalek 5-46, Connerbert 17-61, Christopfer 1-1, Zanderson-Bege 3-3, Danaso 7-07.

PASSING—Princeton: Olenchak 8-16-2, 55; Steinert: Riese 8-13-0-37, Danaso 0-14-0.

RECEIVING—Princeton: Nick Milanda, Christopfer 2-20, Gordon 14-21, Bryant 1-11; Steinert: Gainsbert 2-3, Danaso 1-3, Warrick 2-31.

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