

Football

# Somers, Tullgren boot Yorktown Huskers

By Robert J. DiAntonio

Everyone knows that Somers has a ton of weapons at its disposal. The team has six backs that can run the ball including star senior Matt Deiana, a capable passing game and a defense that has only allowed six points in four games.

But few knew about their biggest weapon of all — Colin Tullgren's foot.

That is until Tullgren booted two 48-yard field goals, breaking the school record of 46 yards previously held by Paul D'Ascot, in a 20-0 win over rival Yorktown Friday at Somers High School. The win basically wrapped up the League 1-A Central title if the Tuskers beat Peekskill and Walter Panas in the next two weeks.

"[Tullgren's] the best kicker in the league, maybe in the state," said senior John Bello, who had a pivotal first quarter interception that set up the Tuskers' first touchdown. "I don't watch enough football to tell you that, but he's an excellent player."

Somers (4-0) Head Coach Tony DeMatteo took the praise a step further. "Maybe he could kick in the pros," DeMatteo said.

Tullgren, a senior, broke the record in the second quarter with 6:43 left to give the Tuskers a 10-0 halftime lead. Kicking long field goals isn't foreign to Tullgren. As a sophomore, he booted two field goals, one 37 yards, in a quarterfinal win over Nyack.

Yorktown (2-2) Head Coach Mike Rescigno said the kicking game made a big difference. The Huskers consistently had poor field position after kickoffs, usually starting at their own 20 after Tullgren booted it into the end zone.

"That is a humongous, humongous advantage," Rescigno said. "To me, it might have been one of the more critical pieces on the field tonight. If I could have signed up for that pregame, I would have done that in a heartbeat."

Bello's crucial interception, halting a promising Yorktown drive, was made in acrobatic fashion as he tipped it up to himself and came down with



Photos by Robert J. DiAntonio

Somers junior QB Anthony Lombardo eludes Yorktown's Nate Suhadolnik Friday at Somers High School.

the ball with one hand. "Nike makes a nice pair of gloves," he said.

The senior defensive back took the Tuskers down to the Huskers' 9, setting up a 7-yard touchdown pass from senior Matt Lancia to tight end Billy Jordan to give the Tuskers a 7-0 lead. Bello credited Assistant Coach Dominic Narcisco with teaching him everything he knows. "That turned the game around," DeMatteo said of the pick.

Early in the third quarter, Deiana (16 carries, 122 yards) broke loose for a 30-yard TD run. Tullgren added his second field goal midway through the fourth to close out the scoring.

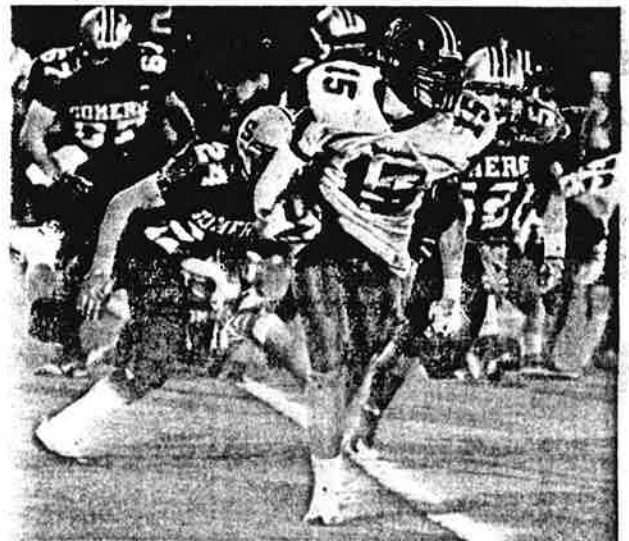
While the Tuskers' offense struggled to move the ball at times against a physical Yorktown squad, the defense was still there to have their back.

"We're relentless," Bello said of the D. "We don't give up. If we mess up, get a penalty or something, we pick each other up and we're right back on it."

Andrew Madigan led the defensive charge with eight tackles, while Erik Pfiffner and Christian Smith both added six.

"We got off a little slow, a little tentative," DeMatteo said of the defense, "but once we got things cleared up we played ball tonight."

Rescigno admitted they must make some adjustments on offense, but the defense was solid throughout. Kujtim Lajqi and Brandon Trager led the D with 12 and 10 tackles, respectively. Matt Fedro (three catches, 40 yards) added eight. Lajqi, Rob Weigel, Tom Falcone and Eric Cooley each had a sack. Dom Scherpf snagged an interception. Rescigno said the plan was to put more perimeter players on the field, and



Yorktown senior Rob Weigel looks for running room.

force Somers to run inside.

Weigel was the bright spot offensively, chewing up big yards early on, until the Huskers had to resort to a passing game when they got behind. He rushed 11 times for 45 yards.

"He was a workhorse," Rescigno said. "I think that they were onto that as we went on, and unfortunately because of what happened turnover wise and getting down 17-0, the offense wasn't exactly clicking."

"We need to be able to move the ball." Early in the fourth quarter, Yorktown

QB Justin Mabus was forced to leave the game after taking a big hit in the end zone. He quickly returned, however, and Rescigno said Mabus should be fine and isn't the type of player that wants to stand on the sidelines.

If the Huskers win the next two games with rivals Walter Panas and Lakeland, they will secure a playoff berth.

"The rivalry [with Somers] seems to be building," Rescigno said. "Unfortunately, we're on the lower half of that right now. But, honestly, we'll build off of a great defensive effort."



Somers senior Matt Deiana looks to juke a defender.

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