

# **HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: Greencastle-Antrim runs over rival James Buchanan**

**Saturday**

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By Ben Destefan

GREENCASTLE — Running over a rival at least lessens the sting of what's been a difficult season.

Greencastle-Antrim finished on a high note Friday night, overwhelming James Buchanan in the first half before coasting to a 42-0 varsity football victory at Kaley Field.

With the win, the Blue Devils ended the year 2-8 while JB concluded its final season as a member of the Mid-Penn Conference at 0-10.

G-A rushed for 305 yards six touchdowns, headlined by two scores from both Demetrius Burton and Tanner Bain. Defensively, the Blue Devils held the Rockets to 60 total yards, culminating in a 35-0 lead at halftime.

"It was a good way to end," Greencastle head coach Chuck Tinninis said. "I'm happy for our seniors, they're a heck of a group and just good people. It was nice to finish on a high note for them."

From the opening whistle, the Blue Devils basically had their way on both sides of the ball.

A 17-yard hookup between Cade McDowell and Caleb Schaeffer highlighted G-A's opening drive, which McDowell capped on a 1-yard keeper for a quick 7-0 advantage.

Establishing their ground attack, Bain and Burton got rolling late in the first, with Bain ripping off a 41-yard scoring run to make it 14-0 heading to the second quarter.

The Rockets threatened on their ensuing possession only to have Antwoine Carter intercept a pass in the end zone and return it to the JB 33. Two snaps later, Bain powered up the middle en route to a 29-yard trip to pay dirt, extending the margin to 21-0.

After forcing the Rockets to punt, G-A continued grinding away, utilizing a nice rotation of Burton, Hayden Rhoe, Kyrin Zimmerman and McDowell. Rolling to his right, McDowell gained 15 yards to move deep into JB territory before consecutive bursts from Burton produced a 28-0 cushion.

Following a Rockets fumble, G-A regained possession at the JB 21, ultimately resulting in a 35-0 lead on Burton's second trip to the end zone with less than a minute to play in the half.

The Rockets got creative to open the third quarter, successfully executing an onside kick to try and create some positive momentum. The Blue Devil defense didn't flinch, however, as an 11-yard sack by Wesley Medina on fourth down ended the drive.

Sending some of the starters back out for one possession, Burton, Rhoe and Schaeffer split carries to the JB 5, where G-A handed off to senior Christian Hildebrand for his first career varsity touchdown.

With things well in hand, the Blue Devil reserves closed out the fourth quarter, giving the G-A faithful something to celebrate entering the offseason.

"We did what we needed to do tonight, came out and handled business," Tinninis said. "Hopefully this sets the tone for next season. We'll have a lot of guys back that gained experience this year."

Burton finished with a game-high 96 yards on 16 carries, pushing his season total over 800 yards on the ground. Bain racked up 82 yards on just three attempts while Zimmerman added 35 yards on a trio of tries.

Aside from serving as the final game of the 2016 season, Friday's contest was also the last football date James Buchanan will play as a member Mid-Penn Colonial Division. Earlier this week, the Mid-Penn accepted a request made by the school to be removed from the conference schedule in football only, therefore becoming an independent team beginning in 2017. While it's still possible that JB keeps its yearly date with G-A because of the rivalry, it's also conceivable Friday was the last meeting between the two for the foreseeable future.

"I want to wish (head coach) Andy (Stoner) and JB all the luck in the world," Tinninis said. "He's a friend, he's a class-act and a good football coach. I want to wish him and his kids well moving forward."