

SPORTS

Almont football tops Marysville

Brenden Welper

Port Huron Times Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MARYSVILLE — Only one side walked away with a win. But both left with the same perspective — changes will have to be made.

“I think (this game) really helped us learn,” Almont running back Bryce Ferman said. “From here, we have a lot of work to do.”

“On offense, we really need to learn our plays,” Marysville quarterback Noah LaValley said. “We need to learn where to go in our formations. Because that’s taking up half our play clock.”

“There’s just a lot to fix,” Almont running back Matthew Measel said. “But it’s only Week 1.”

Almont used a 21-point third quarter to topple Marysville, 35-24, at Walt Braun Viking Stadium on Thursday in the season opener for both teams.

“We’ve got to secure some things on defense and fix that,” Almont coach James Leusby said. “But I liked our effort and our hustle.”

“Obviously, we’ve got to make our corrections,” Marysville coach Derrick Meier said. “Ultimately, we have to come out and play four full quarters. Our stamina and drive in the fourth quarter was good ... but you’ve got to fulfill the time in between.”

The Vikings struck first on an eight-yard touchdown run by LaValley (8-for-10 passing, 104 yards, two touchdowns) at the 4:42 mark of the second quarter. They settled for a 6-0 lead after a missed point-after attempt.

The Raiders responded on their next drive. Quarterback Trenton Kruse scored on a one-yard touchdown run with 14 seconds remaining in the second quarter. After tacking on an extra point, Almont took a slim lead, 7-6, into the break.

“We went into halftime and made some adjustments,” Leusby said. “We had to quit shooting ourselves in the

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Almont's Chase Battani runs with a blocker on Thursday during their football game at Marysville High School. MARK R. RUMMEL/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES HERALD



Port Huron's Caden Rogers screams while running onto the field out of the tunnel prior to playing against Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor on Friday. PHOTOS BY SERGIO MONTANEZ/TIMES HERALD

‘Something I’ll never forget’

Port Huron relishes day at The Big House

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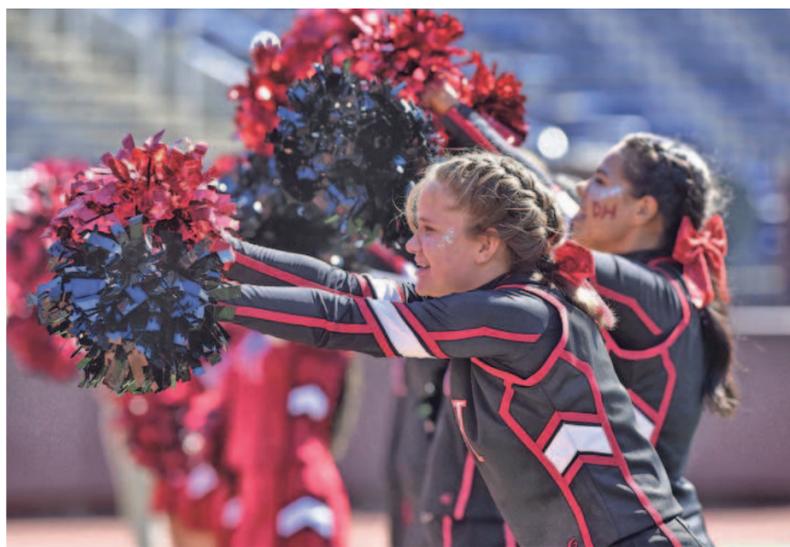
ANN ARBOR — Dan Perkins had been here before. So had Amauri Haller.

But they’d never experienced anything like this. And when the Port Huron football team left the bowels of the 94-year-old building, it hit them all at once.

“My favorite part was walking out of that tunnel,” said Haller, Port Huron’s quarterback. “Just seeing the field open up and how big it is — it was amazing. I loved it.”

“The prior experience of being here kind of lessened it for a minute,” said Perkins, Port Huron’s coach. “Until we went down the tunnel. I was like, ‘Oh my gosh. We’re about to go out on the field.’ That was something I’ll never forget. Having the team behind me, I looked back at the kids and was like, ‘Can you believe this?’ It was really, really cool.”

The Big Reds opened the 2022 season against Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Michigan Stadium on Friday as part of the “Battle at the Big House.” While they ultimately fell, 54-0, that isn’t what they’ll remember. Instead, it’ll be the



The Port Huron cheerleading team performs during the Big Reds' football game against Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor on Friday.

memories they shared with the Port Huron community.

“With all of our people around, it was just super awesome,” Perkins said. “My family was down the field and we got some pictures. It was just an incredible experience.”

In addition to Port Huron’s football team, the school’s marching band, cheerleading squad and dance team were also in attendance. All three performed on the field at halftime.

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Lions O-coordinator: Goff has had ‘great camp’

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jared Goff’s preseason is done, and Detroit Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson likes where his quarterback is at heading into the regular season.

“I think he’s had a great camp,” Johnson said Friday. “He’s displaying a lot of confidence within this system right now and once again, we’re trying to tailor it to what he does best.”

The Lions held Goff out of his second straight practice Friday as they prepare for Sunday’s preseason finale against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Starters on both teams are expected to play about a half in the game, but Lions coach Dan Campbell ruled out Goff on Monday, indicating he did not want to risk injury to his starting quarterback.

Goff, acquired in a trade with the Los Angeles Rams last January, has played well this summer after a rough start to his Lions career.

The Lions started 0-10-1 last season, and Goff committed 10 turnovers in the Lions’ first seven games. Johnson took on a more prominent role in the offense at midseason, after Campbell stripped coordinator Anthony Lynn of play-calling duties, and he and Goff worked together to reimagine the offense this off-season.

Johnson instituted more of the bootleg and play-action passing game that Goff excelled at with the Rams, and the change seems to have benefitted Goff so far.

Goff completed 3 of 4 passes for 47 yards and led a touchdown drive on his only possession of the preseason, in the Lions’ exhibition-opening loss to the Atlanta Falcons. Goff did not play in last week’s preseason win over the Indianapolis Colts, when the Lions put up 27 points and amassed 174 yards rushing.

Johnson has kept his play-calling

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Lions coach Dan Campbell has ruled out Jared Goff for Sunday's preseason finale, indicating he did not want to risk injury to his starting quarterback. MICHAEL CONROY/AP