

2025 NORTHERN NASH HS FOOTBALL
RETURN TO FORM



NORTHERN NASH'S MYLES EATMON PICKS UP YARDAGE FOR THE KNIGHTS DURING THEIR VICTORY AT SOUTH CENTRAL
(Photos Submitted by Carl Copeland)

Knights pick up win at South Central

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

WINTERVILLE -- The Northern Nash High School football team bounced back into the win column last Friday night in impressive fashion, dropping homestanding South Central 44-33 in its final nonconference game of the regular season.

The Knights used two quick third-quarter scores to extend their lead from 17-14 to 31-14, distancing themselves to a 17-point margin that proved to be an insurmountable one.

Northern handed the Falcons their second-straight loss, pushing South Central's record to 3-2 after winning three in a row to begin the year.

"South Central is a good football team," remarked Northern



NORTHERN NASH'S ZEPHANIAH QUEEN (22) AND ELIJAH WOOD TEAM UP FOR A TACKLE



MARLEE ALSTON IS ON THE MOVE FOR THE SOUTHERN NASH FIREBIRDS
(Photos Submitted by Carl Copeland)

SN Opens Big East In Style

Firebirds claim a blowout victory in conference

From Staff Reports

STANHOPE -- Southern Nash couldn't have asked for a better start to its current football tenure in the newfangled Big East Conference.

Southern, which is expected to be in the

mix for league supremacy, made an early case for excellence by rolling to an impressive 56-6 decision over visiting Southern Wayne in the league opener for both clubs at historic Firebird

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BULLDOGS TEAM UP WITH THE HORNETS



JAYDEN WHITAKER CHEERS A GOOD PLAY



WINSTON LEE SUMMONS THE YOUNGSTERS



MAURICE PARKER OFFERS SOME SOLID ADVICE



NORTHERN NASH'S MAYLEE GARNER

Knights on win streak in Big East Conference

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

RED OAK -- The Northern Nash Volleyball team won the sixth of its last eight games on Tuesday evening in a 3-2 victory over Fike, securing a two-match season sweep of the

Golden Demons and improving to an impressive 5-2 in Big East Conference play.

The game marked Northern's third five-set victory of the season and its fourth five-set match of the year, with

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NORTHERN NASH QB HYLAN WHEELER LOOKS TO PASS



NORTHERN NASH QB HYLAN WHEELER LOOKS TO PASS

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Nash head coach Andrew Farriss. “I think and hope they win a bunch of games the rest of the season.”

The eighth-year Northern Nash head coach also commended his own team’s defensive effort -- both in how they put pressure on South Central’s quarterback and how they stopped the run, limiting the Falcons to just 32 rushing yards.

The Knights survived the Falcons throwing the first punch on Friday night, as South Central broke the ice with less than a minute remaining in the first period on a 26-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jaylen Butts to Bobby Williams.

That 7-0 advantage was the only lead that the Falcons would hold all night, and was one that was quickly erased after a 17-yard touchdown run by Northern Nash’s Myles Eatmon less than three minutes of gametime later.

Eatmon -- Northern’s premier back and the focal point of its offense -- finished the night having accounted for two of the Knights’ touchdowns and a staggering total yards, pushing his season total to 532 yards on the ground on top of seven trips to the endzone.

“Offensively we focused on developing an identity,” stated Farriss regarding how his team refocused after their prior outing, a 52-28 loss at Cleveland.

“For us that meant get the ball to our playmakers, concentrate on players,

not plays.”

Northern’s offense certainly focused on getting the ball in the hands of their playmakers, seeing Eatmon accrue 25 carries while Preston McDaniel added eight carries -- one that went for a touchdown -- and Jamarcus Robinson posted nine.

Through the air, Kamren Freeman and Jah’Marzea Williams each hauled in receiving touchdowns, Freeman’s coming from six yards out while Williams’ came in the form of an eight-yard score.

On the defensive side of the ball, while the Knights’ run defense proved strong once again, their secondary and pass defense looks to improve as conference play arrives. South Central finished Friday’s contest with 379 passing yards on top of three passing touchdowns, scores that came from 26, 68 and four yards out - with Butts completing 20 of his 36 pass attempts.

“We have to improve significantly in that area,” remarked Farriss, whose team kicks off league play this week at Fike. “We struggled last Friday in that area and Fike is really good in their passing game, so here we go again.”

Due to anticipated inclement weather, Northern Nash’s conference opener against the Golden Demons has been moved up to today at Buddy Bedgood Stadium on the campus of Fike High School.



SOUTHERN NASH'S CAMRON LYONS TOTES THE PIGSKIN

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Stadium on the SNHS campus.

In securing their third consecutive conquest, the Firebirds improved to 4-1 overall to go with their 1-0 worksheet in the Big East.

Southern Wayne, a newcomer to the conference this fall, dropped to 2-3 overall.

This outcome of this contest was all but determined in the first quarter as the Firebirds delivered 35 unanswered points.

That string of success began when Cam Lyons caught a 25-yard touchdown pass from Isiaiah Battle on the Firebirds’ first series.

Shortly after getting the ball back, Battle struck again -- this time with a TD toss to his brother, Jeremiah.

Jaden Hartsfield and Lyons tacked on touchdown bursts later in the decisive period before Caden Day helped the defense get into the scoring column by recovering a fumble for yet another touchdown.

The Firebirds added three more scores in the second period to lead 56-0 heading into intermission.

A running clock was utilized after that as SN head coach Brian Batchelor

was able to give some of his younger performers some playing time.

Southern Nash finished with a workmanlike 324 total yards of offense.

Nine different Firebirds received handoffs, with DJ Baker pacing the club with 81 yards on just six carries.

The standout Hartsfield, in limited duty, chipped in with 56 yards on only three totes.

Southern Nash’s defense also sparkled as they held the Saints to under 100 total yards while forcing a whopping six turnovers, five of which came via the fumble route.

Southern Nash will look to improve its Big East record this week when the Firebirds hit the road to tangle with another Wayne County opponent -- this time the C.B. Aycock Falcons out of Pikeville.

The Falcons are 2-2 overall, but are coming off a lopsided loss to the Wilson Hunt Warriors last Friday in their Big East Conference opening matchup.

The Firebirds will return home next Friday night to tangle with long-time rival Wilson Fike, which has returned to the Big East following a four-year hiatus.

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head coach Emily Engelking’s squad climbing the league’s standings ladder, with Northern now just a half-game behind Hunt.

The win bumped the Lady Knights to 7-5 overall, with Engelking’s squad righting the ship after a 1-3 start to the season.

Northern has picked up a pair of wins over Fike during its recent hot streak, as well as five-setters over C.B. Aycock and Triton in addition to three-set sweeps of Southern Wayne and Rocky Mount.

Now firmly situated in the top half of the league’s standings, Northern has a serious chance to finish the regular season well-positioned to reach the playoffs for the third season in a row.

Not only that, Engelking’s squad hasn’t just qualified for the playoffs in consecutive years, they’ve won playoff games in each of those two seasons as well. Northern won its first playoff game of the Engelking era - and since 2012 - in 2023 and followed that up with another postseason victory in 2024, the first over Croatan and the most recent against South Brunswick.

The Lady Knights have five games remaining on its regular season schedule, each of which is a conference opponent that the team has already seen in action once.

Next up for Northern will be a Thursday night road trip to Aycock on September 25, the first of three away games left on the schedule. The Lady Knights will face Hunt in Wilson on October 2 - a chance at revenge after a five-set loss on their home floor earlier this season - while the regular season will come to a close at archrival Rocky Mount on October 9.

Those two roadies will be broken up by a pair of home games against Southern Wayne and Southern Nash, two games scheduled for September 30 and October 7, respectively.

Northern’s October 7 matchup against Southern is undoubtedly the hardest game remaining on the team’s calendar, with the Ladybirds - who won the Class-2A/3A Big East ago - entering this week with a spotless record of 13-0, having only dropped six sets all season long.

The Lady Knights were swept the Ladybirds in the two foes initial matchup, but kept the second and third sets within a four-point margin, putting some pressure on the unbeaten Southern Nash spikers.

With Northern riding high into the back half of the season, and chemistry amongst some of the roster’s top players such as Ava Lloyd, Harper Wilson and Lilly Teets unfolding positively, this upcoming rivalry matchup could become one of the top games of the year in the league.

Each of Northern Nash High School’s remaining regular season contests are slated for 5 p.m. start times.

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