

Bittersweet Victory

Silver Lake's win over Quincy marks close of season,
beginning of new careers

by Silver Lake's High School Journalism Class



Silver Lake football team's nostalgic seniors and hopeful rookies victoriously walked off their home field after last Saturday's 21-10 win against the Quincy Presidents. The afternoon football game culminated Silver Lake's spirit week and featured a special tribute to senior players. Stealing some senior thunder, Silver Lake's freshman kicker Jackie Hurley stepped up and racked in seven points for the Lakers.

Veterans and rookies alike contributed to the big win, and now the Lakers are 3-0 in the Patriot League, still tied with Duxbury's Dragons.

Although Coach Battista recognizes "senior leadership" is what rallied the Lakers to bring in the win, the surprising performance by Jackie "Little Hurles" Hurley cannot be dismissed. Playing in his first varsity game ever, and kicking field goals for the first time

ever, Hurley ran out to the field after the Laker's first drive of the game fell short at the Presidents' 9-yard-line. He successfully kicked in the game's first three points.

For the remainder of the first quarter, neither team's offenses could move the ball into touchdown territory. It was in the second quarter when Quincy, looking for the tie, sent in kicker Mark Gilbody to match Hurley's field goal. The President's kick was good and the score was tied at 3-3.

Laker senior tailback Rob Struble fought through injuries to up the senior leadership on the field. Struble's persistence paid off; he finished the game as the top rusher with 107 yards. Struble rallied late in second quarter with a 68-yard drive. He lunged into the end zone from the 1-yard-line with 38 seconds left in the first half. Hurley secured the extra point, and the veteran-rookie combo insured the Laker's lead, 10-3.

Waving poster-size pictures of their sons, parents of Laker seniors proudly marched by adoring fans during the half. The posters were double-sided, containing senior football portraits juxtaposed with baby pictures. Laker parents beamed with pride as their sons played their last Homecoming game in high school careers. Steve Gay's mother, Kathleen Gay, was clearly visible at the sidelines during the entire event, documenting every moment of the game with her digital camera.

Silver Lake senior captain Sean Doherty recognized the halftime event to be something special, but had difficulty wording his emotions. Blushing, he claimed, "I'm not good with that stuff." Doherty's mother, Amber Doherty, was busy video-taping the game.

The unconditional support of the senior families did not go unnoticed. In the second half, the veteran leaders contributed some big plays. Senior Robby Struble had a 26-yard run late in the third quarter that set up fellow senior Darius Smith within scoring range. Smith scored the touchdown with only seconds left in the third quarter.

Senior wide receiver Steve Kasanovich also proved key in the second half. With four receptions totaling 58 yards, “Stevie-K” was a large contributor to Silver Lake’s successful drives.

Most notably, senior Greg Hanson sacked the Presidents’ quarterback in the end zone with only 1:38 seconds left in the game. The safety locked the Lakers lead and Coach Battista acknowledges “that pretty much ended any chance Quincy was going to have to get back in the game.” Quincy had scored their only touchdown of the game when President Anthony Raddatz caught a short pass in the end zone, so the Presidents were held at 10 points.

Hanson’s tackle came after Hurley kicked in another three points for the Lakers. Hurley admitted, “On the last kick I was nervous because the score was 16-10 with three minutes left in the game—if I missed they could have had the ball and taken the lead.”

The seniors’ steady leadership, coupled with younger players’ enthusiasm, secured the Lakers’ Homecoming win. This season’s seniors are not ready to throw in the towel, and the Laker team hopes to battle for the Patriot League Championship with Duxbury next week on Silver Lake turf. Kickoff is 2 pm on Saturday, Oct.4 at Sirrico Field.