

Attleboro thwarted by Dartmouth

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ATTLEBORO — The last 10 yards seemed like 100 miles — for both teams.

That's why it wasn't surprising that it took a 61-yard run by Dartmouth High quarterback Nate Ellis to settle Friday night's game at Attleboro High.

Neither team was having any luck in the other team's red zone, so it was going to take a big play to get the job done.

"We were evenly matched, but it came down to a couple of big plays here and there," said Attleboro coach Mike Strachan after his Bombardiers' 6-0 loss at home. "We had (Ellis) contained and he broke out, and that was the big play for them. At the end of the day, those are the plays that are going to separate you in a game like this."

After a scoreless first quarter, Attleboro had two fruitless possessions in the third quarter and the visiting Indians one before they took over on a punt at their own 38 with 2:24 left in the third quarter. After a gain of one on an end-around by Luke Tisdelle, Ellis took the next snap and was nearly dropped in his own backfield before he saw an opening and took off for the left sideline to the end zone with 1:32 left in the quarter.

The point-after kick was missed, leaving the door open for the Bombardiers. And they had their chances, penetrating deep into Dartmouth territory on three fourth-quarter possessions only to be turned away each time.

On the first, Cam Furtado tossed a 43-yard pass to Elvin Sam to get to the Dartmouth 35, but an interception by the Indians' Owen McKenna ended that bid two plays later.

On the second, Furtado and Sam hooked up twice for 71 yards to reach the Dartmouth 10, but that connection failed to make paydirt on three of the last four plays — each time thanks to outstanding defense by Ellis at cornerback.

On the final AHS possession, Furtado ran 11 yards for a key first down and then benefited from a Dartmouth personal foul to keep the drive alive at the Indians' 43. But three plays later, Ellis again made the big play with an interception, marking Furtado's third picking, with four seconds left to play.

"They were shadowing (Sam), and they did a good job on him," Strachan said. "They were really focused on Cam and Elvin and they did a really good job."

The quarterbacks were clearly the best players on the field — Ellis running 11 times for 116 yards and completing eight of 12 passes (two interceptions) for 134 yards, while Furtado ran 16 times for 106 yards and completed nine of 25 passes for 202 yards.

Sam also earned respect for his five catches for 162 yards.

Dartmouth suffered through its red-zone blues in the first half, penetrating to the Attleboro 11 and 3 on two possessions without scoring.

AHS linebacker Nate Barboza's interception ended the first of those scoring bids, and he made two big hits in a row on the second — a 3-yard loss on a run by Hunter Pimental and a 7-yard sack, which turned a first down at the AHS 3 into third down at the 15, from which the Indians could not recover.

The win was the 100th for Dartmouth coach Rick White.

Things don't get any easier for the 0-2 Bombardiers on Friday, when they visit unbeaten King Philip Regional High, the defending Hockomock Kelley-Rex and state Division 1A champions.