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For Additional Information Please Contact: Dan Stafford, Athletic Director at 517-541-5161

CHS ORIOLES FOOTBALL BRING HOME THE WIN

The Charlotte High School Orioles have returned to the Capital Area Activities Conference after a three year hiatus. Charlotte started the season on the road against the Ionia Bulldogs. This is the 4th year of opening with Ionia. All four of the games have been full of their own heartbreak and joy. The teams have been very competitive and each year it seems that the outcome comes down to one or two plays. This year some of the plays went in the Orioles favor and they won the game 34-26.



The Orioles started the game with a good opening drive and moved the ball with some ease to start the game. Dominic Ghiardi broke away from the defense with a nice 41 yard run for the first score of the game and with 6:57 left in the opening quarter the Orioles were up 6-0. All night the Orioles defense was stingy on the ground. As a team they only gave up 48 yards rushing. Ionia realized that they would have to move the ball through the air. Ionia connected on a 42 yard pass for their first score of the game at the

end of the 1st quarter.

The two teams would move the ball back and forth, but the 2nd quarter had some missed opportunities for the Orioles along with some tough defense. Both teams would head into the locker room tied 6-6.

The 2nd half had a lot of twists and turns that would leave you exhausted at the end of the night. In the 3rd quarter Dom Ghiardi connected with sophomore Brennan Griffith for a 30 yard touchdown pass. Hoesli's point after was good and the Orioles had a 13-6 lead. After the kickoff and a holding penalty the defense took over some of the scoring punch. The defensive line put pressure on Ionia's quarterback and Brendan Sine recovered a fumble in the end zone for another Oriole touchdown. Hoesli's point after was again



good. Leaving the score at 20-6. It seemed as if the Orioles were about to put the game away at the end of the third quarter.

If that is what you were thinking then you were in for a surprise. The Bulldogs were clawing back to get into the game. Within 1:30 of the end of the 3rd and start of the 4th Ionia scored twice to tie the score at 20-20. A key fumble and recovery by the Bulldogs set up their second score.

Now in the 4th quarter, the Orioles would fight to score 2 more big touchdowns by controlling the ball on the ground and putting pressure on the Bulldogs passing game. The defense was lead by Brendan Sine with 7 tackles, Kaleb Keyes with 5 tackles, and Matt Earnest and Gary Lake each with 3 apiece. On the ground the Orioles led the Bulldogs with 342 rushing yards (Ghiardi 278, Griffith 47) compared to the Bulldogs 48. Your final score was 34-26 in favor of the Orioles!!

It was a great team effort and the Orioles earned the right to sing the fight song at the end of the game! Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!