

GALLOP

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back to who we need to be and that's being able to run the football," Salmons said. "We talk about it all the time. When you get into the playoffs, you have to be able to run the football and those who don't aren't successful in November."

Raceland's three scoring drives in the opening half staked a 20-0 lead at the break with each going for 10 plays or more and using nearly four minutes or more on each to find paydirt. But the Rams offense showed success in the passing game with a solid outing from quarterback Logan Lundy who finished 15 of 21 for 184 yards and a pair of TDs. Lundy hit Parker Ison on a 10-yard bubble screen to end the first half. He added a 33-yarder to Brody Austin in the fourth on another quicker hitter.

"We really want to mix our pitches," Salmons said of the passing game. "I didn't realize we threw the ball 20 times. But 15 of 21—I'm not real good at math but that's almost three out of four



FALECIA COLLIER | FOR THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Newport Central Catholic's Kolton Smith tries to escape the grasp of Raceland's Linden Sammons on Friday night.

which is 75%. Our goal is usually 60 percent and if we throw 75 percent the rest of the way, we are going to be really happy where this thing ends up. Anytime you can mix and match your pitches with your run game between the screens and the vertical game, you really have the defense at a disadvantage."

Lundy connected on deep balls to Parker Fannin (38 yards), Heighton (18 yards) and Ison (15 yards).

NCC found the scoreboard late in the third after a Lundy to Fannin pass ended in a fumble after Demetrick Welch swiped the ball from Fannin's hands, then scampered 23 yards for the score and a 20-7 deficit.

"Our guys play hard, but we are trying to figure out what we are made of," NCC coach Stephen Lickert said. "We've played a really tough schedule so far and the outcome obviously wasn't what we wanted but I felt like

our guys played well. We will show on film those glimpses of what we could do but we had this mistake here and made that mistake there...we just have to learn from it."

Raceland knocked the Thoroughbreds' starting quarterback Kolton Smith out of the contest after the first half, forcing the visitors to turn to Louie Collopy as the signal caller in a position he had not played since his freshman season.

"I knew he could do

it and I made it pretty easy on him," Lickert said of Collopy. "He went out and made plays and that's what we need from that position. We need someone who is going to go out and sling it around and get it where it needs to go."

Collopy went 10 of 19 for 96 yards with a touchdown and interception. Austin McKee had a pair of picks against the NCC quarterbacks and Bryson Rowsey snagged another.

"McKee is getting his first shot at varsity action and reps like last week, and tonight is when they paid off," Salmons said. "It was good to see McKee take that learning curve and use it to his advantage."

Raceland also held Welch in check for the entirety of the contest while holding him to his second-lowest production of the season of 46 yards on 15 carries.

"You talk about seven (Welch)," Salmons said. "He's just a dynamic player. Anytime he could get loose, you were just trying to hold him there and stay square at the line of scrimmage so you could gang-tackle him. He's a physical kid and could be a next-level player if he

wants to."

The win over the Thoroughbreds makes only the second for the Rams in the eight meetings and the first since a 32-21 post-season win in Newport in 1997.

Raceland visits Hazard Friday night in its final tune-up game before starting district play against Fairview in two weeks.

NEWPORT CC	0	0	7	7	—	14
RACELAND	6	14	6	14	—	40

FIRST QUARTER
R—Noah Wallace 2 run (pass fails), 7:14

SECOND QUARTER
R—Jaxon Heighton 20 run (Talon Stanley kick), 9:14
R—Parker Ison 10 pass from Logan Lundy (Stanley kick), 0:14

THIRD QUARTER
N—Demetrick Welch 21 fumble recovery (Louie Collopy kick), 5:24
R—Wallace 8 run (pass fails), 2:28

FOURTH QUARTER
R—Brody Austin 33 pass from Lundy (Stanley kick), 11:24
N—Landon Kraft 15 pass from Collopy (Collopy kick), 6:39
R—Heighton 1 run (Stanley kick), 1:12

	N	R
First Downs	15	27
Rushes-Yards	26-75	43-265
Comp-Att-Int	13-32-3	15-21-0
Passing Yards	116	184
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	7-63	7-55
Punts-Avg.	3-36.7	1-36.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NCC rushing: Collopy 2 (-minus 5), Welch 15-46, Bivens 5-29, Smith 1-2, Alford 2-17, Team 1 (-minus-14).

Raceland rushing: Wallace 13-92, Heighton 9-64, Lundy 5-22, Fannin 3-14, Stiltner 1-4, Browning 11-49

NCC passing: Collopy 10 for 19 for 96 yards, interception; Smith 3 for 13 for 29 yards, 2 interceptions.

Raceland passing: Lundy 15 for 21 for 184 yards.

NCC receiving: Ford 5-50, Collopy 1-9, Bivens 1-9, Meyer 1-2, Doeker 2-13, Kraft 2-31, Ohradzansky 1-11.

Raceland receiving: Rowsey 3-7, Heighton 1-18, Fannin 3-54, Austin 1-33, Ison 6-61, Arnett 1-11.

BARREL

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"You get to keep the Barrel and the bragging rights too. Keeping the Barrel is a big thing to us and to the past guys that (have played here)."

Barker posted two interceptions and both came at pivotal times during the game. The first came early in the second quarter and allowed the Raiders to gain separation from the Comets in the opening half.

After the two-point conversion failed following East Carter's final score, West Carter, who had moved the ball well on offense, was driving for a possible winning TD when Barker stepped in front of a Comets pass near the sideline. The Raiders took a knee and ran out the clock.

East Carter retained the Barrel for the first time since 2013. The Comets have won seven of the last 10 meetings but the Raiders relish winning the last two.

"He had two massive plays in the passing game and had two big picks that we needed," East Carter coach Tim Champlin said of Barker. "The last one sealed the game. They were driving and doing some really good things. We couldn't stop their run game all night. Kudos to those guys. (West Carter) was really good up front on offense. (Dwayne) Dean is a handful. He runs downhill and runs hard. When they went back to throw it, we felt like we would have a better chance. Jaxon made a great play."

Barker received the game ball after his performance. It was his first two takeaways of the season.

"We expected that they

would throw there (in the fourth quarter)," Barker said. "It was a long yardage and at the end of the quarter. We covered our guys and came away with the victory."

Time of possession was crucial to West Carter's second-half rally. The Comets recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff of the third quarter. A high floating kick had enough english on it to evade the clutches of a Raiders player.

West Carter followed with an eight-minute drive from the Raiders' 45-yard line. The march lasted 13 plays and ended with Dean's short TD run.

Comets coach Daniel Barker continues to see growth in his young team. He said the team stepped up in the final two quarters and met the challenge.

"Our kids have been locked in all week," Daniel Barker said. "Sometimes with high school kids, especially as young as the majority of our kids are, they can be a little too keyed up. I think it caused some of our hesitancy defensively. Offensively, we moved the ball all night. We have played better defense this season but credit to East Carter. They are the best offense that we have played."

The majority of West Carter's snaps resulted in Dean carrying the ball. He recorded 34 rushes for 189 yards and three touchdowns. The junior's effectiveness in the ground game allows their coach to open up the playbook.

Quarterback Hayden Hall pitched the ball back to Isaiah Bond midway through the final frame. Bond halted his run and connected with a wide-open Kale Back for a 26-yard TD pass. It tied the game at 28-28 with 7:03 remaining in the game.



PHOTOS BY JOHN FLAVELL | FOR THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

West Carter's Dwaylon Dean looks for room to run against East Carter's Bryer Holbrook on Friday during the Battle for the Barrel.

"When your running back runs for nearly 200 yards, it opens things up," Daniel Barker said. "We have had that play all season. We never run it. It was fourth-and-12. We felt like we needed something and a little different look. Isaiah threw a good pass and Kale ran a good route."

"Everybody talks about East Carter up front, but we feel like our kids up front are pretty good too," he added. "I think you saw that as the game went on. Our offensive line did a phenomenal job. Dean is as good a running back as anyone has. They got a chance to exert their will. Defensively, we didn't make enough stops when we needed to make them."

East Carter lost part of its running attack after Ryland Pfau left the game with an injury. But Champlin had two solid options to hand the ball to on the last possession. The Raiders completed a sustained drive of their own after their opponent's ball con-

trol kept their offense off the field for most of the second half.

"We didn't touch it," Champlin said of the second half. "And then when we did, we had one drive that stalled out. We had a couple of penalties. They have an onside kick to start the second half. They have shown that a lot on film. We were prepared for it, but we didn't execute it. It was a big momentum-turner."

Bryer Holbrook and Yoak carried the Raiders down the field. Yoak powered his way through defenders to get the final four yards necessary to produce the winning score with 1:13 left in regulation.

"We feel like we have some backs that are really good," Champlin said. "We will get Ryland checked out and hopefully get him back in a couple of weeks. We have guys that are dynamic in different ways. We try to lean on them in different situations and run with it."

Yoak had 14 carries for 141 yards and three touchdowns for East Carter (3-2, 1-0 in district seeding play). Holbrook added 42 rushing yards.

Gabe Roberts hauled in a TD pass from Quentin Johnson in the first half. Pfau sprinted past a sea of Comets on an 84-yard kickoff return to the house to stake the Raiders to a 28-14 halftime lead.

Back had four catches

for 61 yards for West Carter (1-4, 0-1).

W. CARTER	7	7	7	7	—	28
E. CARTER	7	21	0	6	—	34

FIRST QUARTER
EC—Landon Yoak 41 run (Ryan Carter kick), 5:26
WC—Dwaylon Dean 5 run (Wyatt Martin kick), 2:09

SECOND QUARTER
EC—Gabe Roberts 6 pass from Quentin Johnson (kick failed), 9:43
EC—Yoak 3 run (Jared Potter pass from Johnson), 4:30
WC—Dean 17 run (Martin kick), 2:29
EC—Ryland Pfau 84 kickoff return (Carter kick), 2:17

THIRD QUARTER
WC—Dean 1 run (Martin kick), 4:00

FOURTH QUARTER
WC—Kale Back 26 pass from Isaiah Bond (Martin kick), 7:03
EC—Yoak 4 run (run failed), 1:13

WC **EC**

First Downs	16	13
Rushes-Yards	39-208	33-200
Comp-Att-Int	6-15-3	6-12-0
Passing Yards	88	51
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Punts-Avg.	1-30	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-41	9-80

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

West Carter rushing: Thompson 4-17, Bond 1-2, Dean 34-189.

East Carter rushing: Johnson 3 (-minus-18), Pfau 4-14, Yoak 14-141, Holbrook 9-42, Carter 2-17, Team 1-4.

West Carter passing: Hall 5 of 14 for 60 yards and 3 interceptions, Bond 1 of 1 for 26 yards.

East Carter passing: Johnson 6 of 12 for 51 yards.

West Carter receiving: Thompson 1-10, Back 4-61, Dean 1-15.

East Carter receiving: Roberts 3-19, Hall 2-23, Potter 1-9.

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East Carter's Jared Potter and head coach Tim Champlin celebrate Potter's two-point conversion reception against West Carter on Friday.

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