

# Lafayette Stomps Stonehill In Senior Day Showing

By Dan Sullivan, Staff Writer

EASTON - A fierce rushing attack with five touchdowns on the ground propelled the football team to a Senior Day blowout victory against out-of-conference opponent Stonehill, winning 42-10 on Saturday. The win guaranteed the Leopards will finish .500 or better for the second season in a row.

Senior defensive back Gabe DuBois produced a statement play out of the gate, intercepting the Skyhawks (1-9 overall) and returning the ball to the 41-yard line. Junior running back Jamar Curtis took two plays to run the distance, cashing in for an early 7-0 lead.

The Leopards (2-3 Patriot League, 6-5 overall) forced a punt on the ensuing drive, placing the ball back in the offense's hands. Junior wide receiver Elijah Steward fielded a 38-yard reception on third down to move the ball downfield.

Sophomore running back Troy Bruce was set up for a score on the 4-yard line to extend the lead to 14-0 after nearly nine minutes of game time.

The Maroon and White Turnovers kept churning up turnovers, as senior defensive back Semaj Cross came up with a pick to once again set the Leopards up in Skyhawk territory.

"Going into it, we know if someone tries to run the ball on us, they try to open up the pass game," senior defensive back Saiku White said. "We came prepared for that."

Three plays later, Curtis took a pass 27 yards up the gut into the endzone for his second score of the day. The Leopards boasted a 21-0 lead by the end of the first frame.

Freshman quarterback Jason Penza, who has become the Leopards' go-to gadget option, subbed in and picked up 26 yards on the ground to once again set the rushing attack up on the 1-yard line. Curtis then waltzed in for his third score of the half.

Langsdale said the team is looking to carry its momentum from the run game to the upcoming rivalry game.

"It feels great, obviously," Langsdale said. "Definitely some things to work on, but we're going to be looking to make that transfer the next game. We're going to need to establish a run game quickly and early, and hopefully can get in the end zone quickly as well."

Bruce picked up his second touchdown on the day on the opening drive of the second half. With a 35-3 lead, the Leopards pulled most of their starters. Sophomore quarterback Tray Mauney used his legs to find the endzone for the first time in his collegiate career. Freshman defensive back Xavier Johnson tallied his second interception on the year and freshman linebacker Micah Smith picked up his first sack.

Despite not playing in the second half, Curtis eclipsed 1,000 rushing yards for the second season in a row. DeNobile's 275 yards through the air put him over 2,000 passing yards for the first time in his career.

The ceremony before the game celebrated 27 seniors who took the field at Fisher Stadium for the final time in their careers. "It was special," senior offensive lineman Ryder Langsdale said. "Time goes by really"

"It's a special place to play, and I'm definitely going to miss it," he added. For White, however, Saturday was just another game. "You start to feel a little of those emotions during the game," White said. "I'd say the best thing about it was getting to see the young guys in there to play."

All eyes will be on the Maroon and White on Saturday as they head to battle against Lehigh University (4-1 Patriot League, 7-3 overall) in the 160th edition of college football's most-played rivalry. The Leopards will look to play spoiler for the Mountain Hawks who can clinch the Patriot League title with a win.



Sophomore running back Troy Bruce bursts through a hole in the Stonehill defense.  
(Photo by Rick Smith for GoLeopards)

## Tax Rebate

Continued from page 1

on workforce development, initiatives such as the Employer Child Care Contribution Tax Credit, which offers businesses a tax credit for child care expenses paid towards an employee's eligible child care costs.

Additionally, the Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program supports students who stay and work in PA with grants up to \$5,000 annually. These programs not only support working families but also ensure that Pennsylvania retains its talented graduates in high demand fields. These initiatives are crucial for building a robust workforce that will drive our state's economy forward.

Alongside several important investments, this budget underscores our commitment to fostering economic growth while investing in our workforce. By supporting businesses and educational opportunities, we are laying a foundation for sustainable prosperity and competitiveness for the Lehigh Valley and across Pennsylvania. This budget also makes important investments in public education. School districts in the 18th Senatorial District received nearly \$19 million in increased funding, with over \$2.3 million of that being reimbursement for district's Cyber Charter payment obligations. Bangor Area School District saw an increase of over \$1.5 million in state funding. Our career and technical schools play a crucial role in workforce development and the grant program to provide needed equipment received a 22% increase. As Co-Chair of the Community College Caucus, I was also pleased to see a 6% increase in funding to our community colleges, which play a critical role in workforce development along with being an affordable launching pad for many students as they begin their pathway to a career.

As a longtime advocate for school property tax reform, however, I am disappointed this budget missed out on providing significant property tax relief for homeowners. I will continue my push for property tax reform and offer amendments on the floor to make progress on this much needed initiative.

A reminder that my District Office at 20 Market is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am – 5 pm. Please stop on in or if you wish to set up a specific time to come in, please call us at 610-863-1200.