

Independence inflicts another loss upon Blue Comets

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INDEPENDENCE — Falling in overtime, the Chanute Blue Comets lost on the road to the Independence Bulldogs, 16-8, in SEK League football action on Friday night.

“One thing for us was turnovers — we had three turnovers and Indy didn’t turn it over at all,” Chanute head coach Clete Frazell said. “We were in position to score and didn’t get the job done. That cost us opportunities to punch the ball in. We were in the red zone several times and didn’t capitalize. We’ve just got to coach them up better.”

Chanute’s offense being marred by turnovers has turned into a theme for the Blue Comets after giveaways turned an early lead into a deficit the previous week against Rose Hill.

“Part of it is youth and learning as we go,” Frazell said. “For our kids, the stress has mounted a bit. They want to win football games and we’ve played a tough schedule. But when we got in a position to win, we didn’t relax and do our job. It always comes down to 11 guys doing their best to win a game. Panic and nerves can get in the way of that sometimes.”

Chanute quarterback Gage Frazell was 12-of-24 passing with two interceptions and a fumble along with a touchdown pass to Kasen Audiss.

Jordan Patterson carried the ball 18 times for 64 yards for Chanute.

On defense, Brier Alonzo racked up a dozen tackles, including four for a loss and one sack.

“He played well and came out of his shell,” Frazell said. “He missed the first two games coming off an ACL injury last year, but he’s starting to gain more confidence. He’s starting to trust that he’s ready to roll. Any time you come back from an injury, there’s going to be hesitation when you’re rehabbing. He’s getting to the point where he’s playing like he did as a true freshman who played varsity for us.”

Chanute’s defense limited Independence to 181 yards of total offense.

“They played tough on defense,” Frazell said. “They’ve held their own to what we thought we’d get out of this group. We have guys that play aggressive and hard-nosed. Our struggles are in pass protection on offense. We haven’t been able to throw the ball down the field. When you can’t use the whole playbook, other teams figure that out.”

Independence’s Kaeson Lewis notched 105 rushing yards on 26 carries.

Chanute fell to 1-4 overall with the loss while Independence improved to 3-2.

“We’ll prepare like we always prepare, whether we’re winning or losing,” Frazell said. “We’ll do the same job every week. Our kids believe in each other and they’ll keep playing hard. That’s the tough part of playing a tough schedule early. And the SEK League is really balanced this



Chanute Blue Comets quarterback Gage Frazell winds up to pass during a Week 5 loss to the Independence Bulldogs on Friday night in Independence.

year. Every night will be a dogfight. We’ll keep talking to our kids about the potential we have. I see a lot of glimmers of hope and a lot of good things with our team. We’ve just got to find a way to put more points on the board.”

Up next

Chanute hosts SEK League-leading Fort Scott on Friday.

“They scored a lot of points against everybody and they’ve given up points,” Frazell said. “So we’ve got

to get our offense rolling and continue to play great defense. It’s an intriguing matchup. Our defense is as good as anybody’s in the league. Fort Scott is battle tested. But so is our defense. We have to play disciplined football against them to stop them.”

Friday Night
SCOREBOARD

HOME

02:36

VISITOR

DOWN

YDS. TO GO

BALL ON

QTR.

21 3

TIME-OUTS

2 00

11

10

20

4

CHANUTE Blue Comets	8
INDEPENDENCE Bull Dogs	16
HUMBOLDT Cubs	42
CENTRAL HEIGHTS Vikings	27
ST. PAUL Indians	48
CREST Lancers	56
ERIE Red Devils	24
SOUTHEAST Lancers	0
ALTOONA-MIDWAY Jets	6
PEABODY BURNS Warriors	58

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