

Lakeview rallies from 20 points down to edge LaSalle 36-34

OLLA, La. – The Lakeview Gators rallied from 20 points down in the final 13 minutes of the game to defeat the LaSalle Tigers 36-34 on the road Friday night for their third straight win.

Lakeview (3-1) fell behind in the first half as Omarion Pier and Caleb Collins were relatively held down in the first 24 minutes. Pier had just 20 first half rushing yards while Collins had 13 rushes for 79 but did score both Gators' touchdowns. However, LaSalle held a 28-14 lead at halftime as they recovered two onside kicks.

LaSalle (3-1) padded their lead with 5:55 to go in the third quarter on a short touchdown run as the Gators were staring a 34-14 hole in the face with time dwindling.

The Gators, under first year head coach Andy Boone, didn't quit. Pier came roaring to life as he scored all three touchdowns and had 117 yards rushing in the final quarter despite Collins not playing in the second half.

Pierre scored his first touchdown of the game from one yard out with 15 seconds left in the third quarter. Zavian McKinney converted the two-point conversion for Lakeview to make it 34-22.

The Gators' comeback charge continued as Pier again scored from three yards out with 9:14 left in the 4th quarter. The Gators' two-point conversion failed as they trailed 34-28.

Lakeview was able to tie the game with 1:34 remaining on Pier's third touchdown run, this time from two yards out. However, Lakeview was whistled for a 'unsportsmanlike conduct' after the touchdown, and they had to attempt a 2-point conversion from 18 yards out. Quarterback Lamar Rushing rolled a bootleg to his left. He avoided several tackles and was able to convert the two-point conversion and give the Gators a 36-34 lead as they held on for the win.

“We never gave up,” said Boone. “There’s something to be said for that but we’ve got to clean some things up. We had some disciplinary issues in the game that almost cost us, but we’ll learn and get better but overall, I am proud of the team for finding a way to win.”

Lakeview finished the game with 282 yards offense while LaSalle had 283. Both teams had two turnovers and were whistled for nine penalties each. Pier finished with 137 yards rushing and three touchdowns, McKinney and Rushing combined for 58 yards rushing to aid the Gators’ comeback efforts.

Next up, the Gators will host Delta Charter Thursday night at 7 p.m.

Fans can tune into Thursday’s game by listening live at 97.5 KDBH locally. A live video broadcast of the game will also be available as with the link the game located at the Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page.