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Sports

Jaehne, Gill, Zoch drive Giddings to rout of Taylor

By Colby Gordon / American-Statesman Correspondent

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TAYLOR There's little Giddings senior Gage Jaehne can't do on a football field, but the Buffaloes are far from a one-man show.

Sure, Jaehne showed an incredible burst of speed several times and scored three different ways Friday, but he combined with fellow running backs Cody Gill and Bryan Zoch for six plays of at least 35 yards as Giddings routed Taylor, 46-12, at Taylor Stadium.

"That's what we try to pride ourselves on, having a lot of guys that can get hot," Giddings coach Wade Griffin said. "We had eight guys run the ball and we just give it to whoever is in there and if the guys up front do their job, we're going to be fine."

PHOTOS: Giddings 46, Taylor 12 - Buffalo RBs drive rout over Ducks

Jaehne turned a short pass from Buffaloes quarterback Holden Jatzlau into a 40-yard touchdown, returned a punt 45 yards for a score and had a 56-yard catch and 36-yard run. Meanwhile, Zoch sprinted 51 yards for one of his touchdowns and Gill set up Jaehne's 2-yard TD plunge with a 57-yard sprint.

"It's great to have so many different weapons," said Jaehne, who finished with 214 all-purpose yards. "You can go for a few plays, then go out and rest, and we all cover for each other."

Gill's big run came on the game's second play and Jaehne crossed the goal line the next snap as Giddings led from start to finish.

Following Jose Leyva's 30-yard field goal, Bryson Kleinert returned a Taylor fumble 28 yards for a score that put the Buffaloes ahead 18-0 early in the second quarter.

The Ducks (0-3) responded with a time-consuming 75-yard touchdown drive capped by Bryson Bass' 7-yard jaunt. Giddings answered right back with its own scoring march just before halftime, Zoch's 2-yard run giving the Buffaloes a 25-6 lead.

When Jaehne took Jatzlau's quick-hitter 40 yards to the end zone early in the third quarter, the rout was officially on.

"All those guys are capable of turning up and making big plays when we need them," Jatzlau said. "As a quarterback, it's great to be out there and know what you're going with."

Jaehne's punt return and Zoch's 51-yard run pushed Giddings' lead to 46-6 midway through the third.

Zoch finished with 70 yards rushing and Gill added 68 yards on the ground, while Jatzlau threw for 95 yards.

Strangely, the Buffaloes (2-1) only ran 25 plays of offense prior to a long drive that ran out the last 10 minutes of the game. As a team, Giddings ran for 258 yards.

"The skill guys we have lets us be multiple and gives us options calling plays," Griffin said. "Most of them play defense, too, so it allows us to keep guys fresh. We can spot play them on both sides of the ball and keep the hot guy carrying the ball."

Taylor running back Jake Townsend's 12-yard run early in the fourth finished off the game's scoring.

Both Bass and Daniel Mendoza had 54 yards rushing to pace the Ducks.

While Griffin likes all his offensive options, he thinks Jaehne may not be getting the attention publicly he deserves — though that seems to be changing.

“He can do it all,” Griffin said. “People really don’t understand how good he is. He’s not the biggest guy, but he can really run and is electric when he gets the ball in his hands.”

After two nail-biters to start the season, including last week’s 33-28 win over Columbus in triple overtime, the Buffaloes (2-1) are glad to have a game that didn’t go down to the final few plays.

“To have one here where we got to play everyone is good and allows us to regroup,” Griffin said. “We talk about in the nondistrict, no matter if we win or lose, did we get better? We felt like we got better tonight, and we have to be playing our best football when district starts.”