

THIS WEEK IN

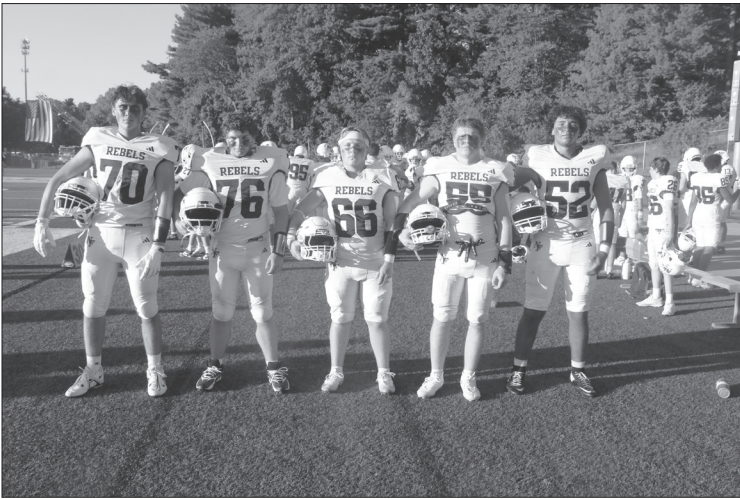


SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRISTINE GILLESPIE



FOOTBALL



Starting offensive line: C Matt Davidson, RG Willie Drucker, LG Tyler Conroy, RT Ethan Makarewicz, LT Alec Holley

Rebels Varsity Lose Home Opener to Waterford, 34-26

By Bill Merritt

On Saturday, September 19, the NFHS Varsity Football team of Coach Greg Schwarz hosted Waterford in the Rebel home opener and lost 34-26. For the second week in a row turnovers doomed NF. Waterford scored three touchdowns to open the game after NF opened with a three and out, an interception and a fumble. Trailing 20-0, NF's Tommy DelCampo had a 26-yard punt return and then broke away with a 38-yard TD pass play from QB Chase McCarthy to make the score 6-20. The Rebels failed on the PAT kick attempt. They would fail on three of their 4 PAT attempts.



Tommy DelCampo with his 1st quarter TD



Michael Puff with a catch

After forcing a punt on the next Waterford possession, the Rebels had a beautiful play drive keyed by the running of DelCampo and Brayden Hill, Mark Vara capped the drive with a 23-yard pass from McCarthy and the score was 12-20. Waterford answered with a 4-play drive with a 47-yard TD pass to make it 12-26. NF next had another 9-play possession that saw Mark Vara score the next NF TD with a 3-yard pass from McCarthy. The Rebels then completed their only successful PAT with a pass to DelCampo and NF was back within one score of the lead, 20-2, which was where things stood at halftime. The third quarter was mostly defense although NF again fumbled the ball away to end their second possession of the period. Waterford took advantage again as they put together a 6 play 42-yard scoring drive capped by a 1-yard QB sneak. It made the score 20-34 with just under 3 minutes left in the third quarter. NF fumbled away the ensu-

ing kickoff but held firm, forcing a punt. NF then went on a time consuming 7-play drive capped by a 3-yard Vara run. After failing on the PAT, the Rebels were down by what proved to be the final score. Waterford fumbled away the ensuing kickoff, but NF returned the favor by fumbling the ball away on the very next play. Waterford then tried to burn the rest of the clock. NF had time for 1 more pass com-



Mark Vara returns a kickoff.

pletion but ran out of time. The 0-2 Rebels are scheduled to play next tomorrow at Bunnell in Stratford at 6:30 pm.

Scoring by quarter					
Waterford	20	6	8	0	- 34
New Fairfield	6	14	0	6	- 26

Individual Scoring
FIRST QUARTER
0-7 Chase Nolda, 4-yard run (Jameson Barlow kick) 6:57
0-13 AJ Stefano, 9-yard run (kick failed) 5:66
0-20 27-yard fumble return (Jameson Barlow kick 5:00
6-20 Tommy DelCampo, 38-yard pass from Chase McCarthy (kick blocked) :27

SECOND QUARTER
12-20 Tommy DelCampo, 3-yard run (kick failed) 8:43
12-26 Quin Robinson, 47-yard pass from Chase Nolda (kick failed) 3:27
20-26 Mark Vara, 23-yard pass from McCarthy (PAT pass to DelCampo) 1:07

THIRD QUARTER
20-34 Chase Nolda, 1 yard run (PAT pass to Aiden Giles) 2:52

FOURTH QUARTER
26-34 Mark Vara 50-yard run (run failed) 2:43



DelCampo scores in 2nd quarter.



The Rowdy Rebels at the home opener, dressed in light blue in honor of the Nicole Vengalli game.



Brayden Hill with the carry.



Alec Holly and Dylan Ribisi on a tackle.



Rebel Hall of Fame inductees are honored at halftime.



Michael Puff scored the first touchdown of the season in game 1 against Newtown.



Gaby Prata is in her 5th season as athletic trainer for NFHS.

Upcoming Games

Varsity
FRI 9/25 6:30 PM
Bunnell - M
New Fairfield - S
Bunnell HS
Mastroni Field

JV
MON 10/5 4:00 PM
New Fairfield - S
Bethel - MM
New Fairfield High School
Stadium Field

Rebels 2026 Home Games

Oct. 16th at 7:00pm
Homecoming
Oct. 30th at 7:00pm
Senior Night
Nov. 6th at 7:00pm
Honor Our Veterans
Nov. 13th at 7:00pm
Last Home Game of 2026

