

Tantasqua Victorious Under Tuesday Night Lights

Braves win with seconds left on the clock

By Dave Carson
TPW Board Member

-Manchester, CT -

A last minute scheduling change had the Tantasqua Jr PeeWee Braves facing the Sentinels of Manchester under the lights on Tuesday at Carlson Field in Manchester, CT. "You never want to have a schedule change; however playing under the lights is exciting! My son was counting down the minutes as soon as he got off the school bus. He was just overly excited to play a night game" stated Colleen Lord. What a great night of football it would turn out to be. The game was a nail biter until the last second ran off the clock.

The Braves would receive the ball on its own forty-three yard line to start the game. Jonathan Reardon had multiple first down runs off tackle as Tantasqua would drive to Manchester's twenty-five yard line. An unforced fumble recovered by the Sentinels would stop the drive. Manchester's offense would line up and return the favor by fumbling on their first play. The ball was recovered by Alex Lord on the Sentinels twenty-three and giving Tantasqua a shot to finish what they started earlier. A sweep by James Labarge and a sixteen yard touchdown run by Jonathan Reardon would put the Braves up 6-0.

Manchester would take the ball over on its forty-six and drive to the Tantasqua goal line on a forty-five yard sweep that was just stopped for a touchdown by Sean Farland. The Braves defense held strong with a quarterback sack by Bryce Iller, however Manchester would score on a six yard run and even the game tied at six a piece. The defenses on both sides stiffened up as each offense turned the ball over on downs, until seconds left in the half. The Braves starting at their thirty-eight yard line would begin a drive that ended thrillingly.

James Labarge on the final play ran thirty-seven yards to the Manchester goal line. He was brought down merely a couple feet away from a touchdown. The half would end with the game tied at 6-6.



The second half continued to be a defensive battle as numerous solid tackles made holding the ball tough for both sides. The Braves defensive line led by Ryan Sears, Alex Lord, Kyle Rizy, Owen Stanton & Bryce Iller manhandled Manchester keeping the Sentinels offense off the field. The third quarter and start of the fourth would remain a back and forth defensive fight. To start the fourth quarter Tantasqua would turn the ball over to Manchester on their, own forty-eight yard line. A fifteen yard face mask penalty against the Braves would put the ball deep in their own end. Ultimately, the Braves would come up big with a timely strip and fumble recovery by Jared Langevin, his second of the game and most important.

Tantasqua would move down field to their own forty-three and return favor to Manchester fumbling the ball with only 1.25 minutes left on the game clock. The Sentinels took the field and fumbled on their first snap giving the ball back. The Braves offense started with a five yard holding penalty pushing them back to their, own forty-eight yard line. They would immediately get the yards back and more on a thirty-eight yard pass play from Sean Farland to Andrew Jensen. They would score a touchdown on reverse run that was handed to Reardon then Labarge for eighteen yards. The reverse confused the Manchester's defense while giving the Braves the lead. A successful extra point would end the game 13-6 and give the Tantasqua Jr Pee Wee team its second win of the season.

The Jr PeeWee Braves will take on North County Panther in Gardener, MA on Sunday.