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CHAMBERSBURG CARDINALS POUND THE D.C. EXPLOSION 56-24

CHAMBERSBURG, PA, July 25, 2011— The Chambersburg Cardinals remain undefeated after pounding the D.C. Explosion 56-24 on Saturday night at Trojan stadium. Head coach, Chad Fauson expected a close game, "I fully expected them to give us everything they had," he said.

The Explosion came out tough, returning the opening kickoff for an 86-yard touchdown. The Cardinals answered when Anthony Gardner lofted a touchdown pass to Ottis Lewis, over a defender's head for a score. D.C. regained its lead in the second quarter when Paul Minus scooped up a blocked punt and took it 23 yards for a touchdown, making the score 16-6. "We gave up 16 points on special teams, so they only would have scored eight on us if everything would have worked out," Fauson said.

The lead returned to the Cardinals as they put up three touchdowns before the end of the half. "We started out a little slow," Cardinals wide receiver Garrien Johnson said, "but we got the ball rolling. Not to be cocky, but when I saw their coverage and nobody was playing on top of me, I knew I had them beat (on his two touchdowns). Their defense made our offense work today, but that's a good thing." Gardner connected with Johnson for a 31-yard score, Dustin Mowen ran the ball in from one yard out, and J.P. Marshall snagged an interception and took it to the house to make the lead 28-16.

The Cardinals came out strong in the second half when Lewis grabbed a 41-yard pass from Gardner on the quarter's very first play. The next play, Craig Howard found his way to the end zone after a 19-yard run. D.C. tried to fight back with a 26-yard touchdown run from Larry Graham, but the Cardinals had control of the rest of the game.

Gardner connected with Johnson for their second touchdown of the night on a 49-yard bomb, and followed shortly after with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Terrence McLatchey. With less than two minutes remaining, Gardner found Travis Smith with a 4-yard toss for his fifth touchdown pass of the night.

"It was a good game," D.C.'s coach Charles McGriff said, "The Cardinals are a great team and we expected a battle."

Fauson is excited to see how the rest of the season plays out. "It will be fun to see just how dangerous this team can be."

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