

# His time to shine

■ Aaron Czesak made a nice debut as Bedford's quarterback, scoring three touchdowns in a 35-7 victory over Airport.

BY RON MONTRI  
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CARLETON — Aaron Czesak couldn't win the starting quarterback job on Bedford's 2010 football team.

There was no shame in that since he was the backup to Jared Kujawa.

But Kujawa has graduated and Czesak got his chance to shine Friday night. He sparkled like the new football lights at Airport in leading Bedford to a season-opening 35-7 conquest of the Jets.

Czesak ran and passed for 254 yards and three touchdowns. But he spent time after the game explaining how to pronounce his name. It's not Ze-sak. It's Chess-sock.

Better learn how to spell it because it's going up on the Bedford record board for a 99-yard scoring run.

Czesak also had 15 and 3-yard TD dashes. He completed 3-of-5 passes for 62 yards and both of his misses were on the mark. One was dropped and the other was batted away by Airport safety Zach Baker.

Czesak's performance was enough for one of the Bedford players to shout "Jared who?" in the post-game huddle. He was kidding, of course, but the new quarterback settled in nicely in his first start.

"I was nervous. I had butterflies all day," Czesak admitted. "I'm not trying to be like Jared. I'm just out there having fun."

What's more fun than a 99-yard TD run?

"That's a school record," Bedford coach Jeff Wood said. "His name will forever be on that board."

The game was more competitive than the final score. Airport's Justin Jones and Caleb Schumake each rushed for more than 100 yards, but the Jets were inside the 5 twice without scoring.

"We've got to put the ball in the end zone when we get down there," Airport coach Adam Barber said.

Bedford linebacker Bryan Smith made the key hit on fourth down each time to deny Airport's scoring bids.

The Mules drove 95 yards for a TD the first time and scored just 19 seconds before halftime. After Smith's tackle just inches short of the goal line in the fourth quarter, Czesak dashed 99 yards on the next play to tie the school record for longest scoring run set by Tom Gannon in 1951.

"The play was designed to go inside, but it was clogged up so I bounced it to the outside and found some open

space," said Czesak, who finished with 192 rushing yards on just 14 carries.

"He read the play perfectly," Wood said of the long touchdown run.

The highly successful Bedford coach let it be known that he wasn't satisfied in spite of the final score.

"We made a ton of mistakes and yet came out smelling like a rose," he said. "We've got some messes to clean up. I told the kids this was going to be a grind and it was."

Jon Prajzner rushed for 94 yards and a TD, Jon Shepherd ran in the other score and Brendan Renius was 5-for-5 on conversion kicks.

Jones gained 107 yards and tallied Airport's TD on a 28-yard run. It was set up by a 59-yard kickoff return by Curtis French.

Schumake ran for 103 yards and Jordan Eyler recovered a fumble for Airport. It was the only turnover of the game.

"I liked the way we battled and we definitely have some things to build on," Barber said.

Bedford.. 7 7 7 14 - 35  
Airport... 7 0 0 0 - 7

**First Quarter**

B - Aaron Czesak 3 run (Brendan Renius kick)

A - Justin Jones 38 run (Dylan Raisanen kick)

**Second Quarter**

B - Jon Shepherd 5 run (Renius kick)

**Third Quarter**

B - Czesak 15 run (Renius kick)

**Fourth Quarter**

B - Jon Prajzner 3 run (Renius kick)

B - Czesak 99 run (Renius kick)

|                     | BED   | AIR    |
|---------------------|-------|--------|
| First Downs .....   | 18    | 15     |
| Rushing yards.....  | 350   | 224    |
| Passing yards ..... | 62    | 61     |
| Total Yardage ..... | 412   | 285    |
| Comp-Att-Int .....  | 3-5-0 | 5-12-0 |

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**Rushing:** Aaron Czesak, B, 14-192; Justin Jones, A, 14-107; Caleb Schumake, A, 21-103; Jon Prajzner, B, 15-94; Jon Shepherd, B, 7-46.

**Passing:** Aaron Czesak, B, 3-5-62; Brandon Potcova, A, 5-12-61.

**Receiving:** Cory Scheuer, B, 1-36; Scott McCormick, A, 1-35; Bryan Smith, B, 1-29; Brandon Lewis, A, 4-26.

Coach **Jeff Wood** made an announcement to the team after the game, "That's a school record. His name will forever be on the board."

Someone was listening and sent an e-mail to The Evening News pointing out that Czesak's run had tied the school record. Gannon also had a 99-yarder in 1951.

It has been 60 years since **Tom Gannon** wore a Bedford football uniform, but he hasn't been forgotten.

Bedford quarterback **Aaron Czesak** scored on a 99-yard run Friday night.



# Football Highlights

Dear Friends:

We had a very successful season this year, winning seven and losing one. This was the same record we had last year. We beat many strong teams. Football practice started on August 27 and before the season ended we had a seven game winning streak from 1950.

We made it eight straight by trouncing Dundee, 33 to 7. On the first play from scrimmage, Gannon raced around end for 80 yards for Bedford's touchdown. Gannon made a total of three touchdowns and Welch made the remaining two. The whole team played heads-up football. The next week we traveled to Anthony Wayne to meet the powerful Anthony Wayne Tornados. We beat Anthony Wayne 19 to 0. Gannon scored one touchdown when Anthony Wayne kicked off to us and Gannon raced 56 yards for Bedford's first touchdown. Gannon also raced 72 yards for a touchdown and Welch passed to Spotts for the other.

The next game was played with Maumee Valley Day School. The score at the end of the game was 47 to 0 in our favor. The whole backfield had a field-day against the Maumee defense. Estes raced 85 yards on the opening kick-off for a touchdown. Gannon raced 95 yards for a touchdown on an end run, Alexander, Hetzel, Kubitz, and Spotts also scored touchdowns for Bedford. The next week we traveled to Montpelier. Montpelier, in every one's mind, was a very good team. The first half was scoreless but our team exploded in the final half winning 20 to 0. It was Alexander's line plunging and Gannon's long runs that broke the game wide open. Gannon scored the three touchdowns on 22, 26, and 22 yard sprints. Bedford defense kept Montpelier's offense in check the whole game.



The next game we marched out for a very convincing victory over Monroe Central by beating them 44 to 6. In this game Gannon really made a name for himself. On the first play from scrimmage, Gannon raced 97 yards for a touchdown. Later he raced from our own foot line and went all the way for a touchdown. The play covered 99-2/3 yards. Spotts and Mortemore both scored two touchdowns apiece and Estes ran 53 yards for the other. The next game we had to fight very hard for victory, and we finally beat Hillsdale 6 to 0. Welch passed to Spotts for our lone touchdown. The Homecoming King and Queen were Bill Alexander and Jackie Emery.

We lost the big game of the year to a strong Romulus squad the next week. Romulus scored on us the first play from scrimmage and after that we were defeated. Alexander played a very good game for us on defense. The next week we closed the season on the right foot by beating Airport 12 to 0. The first half was scoreless, Gannon scored one touchdown on a 38 yard around end. Gannon also raced 80 yards for the last touchdown. McGovern made a tremendous block and Gannon went all the way. This game closed a very successful football season for us.



—Evening News Photo

of last night's Monroe-Royal Oak senior halfback. Twice Yount batted ten-yard line and he intercepted a last minute bid for victory. In the ball away from Chuck Maxwell (33), own pass play came in the opening of the fourth period.

## ins, 38-13, an St. Mary

scored the first touchdown on a 55-yard run. Ida went 76 yards in a sustained march with Don Bauer. Dave Hammond and Eipperle alternating and Bill Loga scoring from the one-yard line on a quarterback sneak. The third touchdown, coming in the second period, climaxed a 69-yard march with Loga passing to Hammond for the final 50 yards.

A hard tackle by Bernard Bauer shook an Adrian back loose from the ball and Frank Spoering recovered for Ida in midfield in the third period. Loga went over from the eight-yard line. Oscar Klester set up the next tally when he blocked a punt on the 25-yard line and recovered on the three-yard line. Don Bauer scored but Klester got his touchdown a little later when Loga passed 20 yards to him.

IDA RURAL AG 38  
Ends—Sweet, Klester, Smith.  
Tackles—Gotha, D. Dehar, Capool.

## Mules Register Fifth Straight; Falcons Falter

Gannon, Spotts,  
Mortemore, Estes  
In TD Parade

(By a News Staff Writer)

LAMBERTVILLE, Oct. 13 — Monroe Catholic Central was just another victim to Coach Bill Early's rampaging Bedford Mules here last night as the home team scored at will on long runs and pass plays to record their fifth straight victory of the season. The merciful final gun saw the Falcons on the short end of a 44-6 count.

Central Coach Pete Varda today faces the stupendous task of rebuilding the squad's shattered morale for Friday's home-coming against Romulus—the team that racked up the biggest 1950 score against the local parochial team. But the contingent of Monroe fans who made the trip last night will be a long time forgetting the break-away power of the potent Mules that humiliated their highly-touted green and white hopefuls.

Bedford lived up in full to the distinction of being the highest scoring eleven in the county by pushing their points-scored column to a cool 163 in five tilts. The Falcon tally was only the second of the season against the Mules.

The Falcons may have some slim consolation in the feat of at least partly curbing Tom Gannon's point scoring brilliance. The Flash tallied twice—his 10th and 11th of the season—but proved more effective as a decoy for other backs to gain and for long pass plays.

At that, Gannon made up for lack of touchdown quantity with the quality of his two scampers. On the Mules' first scrimmage play, their ace halfback found a hole on the right side, cut to the middle and romped 92 yards to pay dirt. He did even better in the third quarter, breaking the Falcon resistance with a 99½-yard dash after Central had been halted inches from a tally. The run actually covered 103 yards to make it one of the longest dashes ever seen on the Lambertville field.

Catholic Central's only tally came near the close of the open-



THIS ONE TURNED THE TIDE—Catholic Central's here is being thrown back in his bid to score from the second half last night at Lambertville. Farmer have put the Falcons within a score of the Mules. They to break the Falcon will to resist. Three more six-point straight, 44-6. Helping with the tackle is Bedford's Bill (12), Dick Compto (14) and Francis "Red"

## Dundee, Flat Rock and Mila French Paces Viking Victory

YPSILANTI, Oct. 13 — Fullback Dale French took over the scoring duties from injured Dale Goetz here last night to pace Dundee's Vikings to a 20-18 victory over Lincoln Consolidated. French totaled 20 points on three touchdowns and two extra points.

Goetz, the bright light in Dundee's offense thus far, played with an injury during the first half and left the contest for good near the end of the stanza with a slight brain concussion. But French rose to the occasion to add the winning fourth quarter tally to his pair of first half TDs.

Lincoln drew first blood, scoring on the game's second play via an 80-yard pass from Harwood to Woods. Goetz' 17 yard end-around carry put the ball on the one-yard line from where French scored the tying marker mid-way in the period.

Dundee took a lead they never relinquished in the closing minutes following a pass interception by Jerry LaMonde on the home team's

(Special to The Eve)  
FLAT ROCK, Oct. 13 — Flat Rock Rams jumped second place in the race here last night to Chelsea, 12-0. It was league loss.

Chelsea moved the first downs to 11 but Flat Rock recovered deep in their own times to stop the Ensch. Ram end. The fumble after a comp pass to the Flat Rock in the first period. First down on the line but Ken Wed played a top offensive through with a jarr; the fumble was rec 14-yard line. In the Flat Rock stopped a five-yard line after first down on the Rock line play was the way.

The Rams got the in the first quarter after Chelsea had

# Fellow hall-of-famer pays tribute to Gannon

BY JERRY KISH

A tribute to Tom Gannon, the greatest, the best, the most outstanding football running back in the history of Bedford: He was marvelous.

This can be said about a lot of running backs. To coin a new phrase, Tom was "The Most Exciting — The Flash."

It all started with the last football game of the 1950 season and the newspaper article titled, "Bedford Closes Best Season in History." Entering the 60th year since then, it is still the best season in Bedford football history, losing one game by one point and only allowing the opposition 38 points the entire season.

It was Tom's time. In the fourth quarter, he took a punt

and started running down the Bedford side of the field. All of the defenders ran that way. Tom reversed his field running down the other side of the field. Giving the Airport coach the bye-bye wave, he ran 71 yards for a touchdown. Later in the same game, Tom had another touchdown run.

The 1951 season was Tom's senior year. In the first game against Dundee on the first play from scrimmage, Tom ran 80 yards for a touchdown. He scored three touchdowns in that game. After half-time, the Dundee PA announced called Tom "The Flash."

In midseason, against Monroe Catholic Central, again Tom on the first play from scrimmage ran for a 92-yard

touchdown. In this Monroe CC game, Tom set a Bedford record, which can be tied, but never broken. The ball was on the Bedford 1-foot line. From scrimmage, Tom ran 99 and 2/3 yards for a touchdown equaling 103 yards.

In all, Tom had touchdown runs of:

- 1 for 99-2/3 yards
- 1 for 95 yards
- 1 for 92 yards
- 2 for 80 yards
- 1 for 72 yards
- 1 for 56 yards

And six shorter touchdown runs for a total of 13 yards. Tom's last touchdown was for 80 yards.

Tom was tricaptain of the team with Richard Oswald and Bill Alexander.

The 1950 and 1951 football teams were the greatest in Bedford history losing only one game each season. In 1951, opponents scored only 36 points the entire season.

Tom was outstanding in track and set a broad jump record. You can use every word and every phrase to tell Tom's greatness and talent, and they would all fit him.

Tom was also a very nice person. He was homecoming king in 1950. Tom entered the Bedford Hall of Fame in 2002. He was the most outstanding and "The Most Exciting — The Flash." I know, I was there!

However, Tom's greatest gain was his marriage to Evelyn, his children, and now his life in heaven with Jesus.

*Jerry Kish is a member of the Bedford High School Class of 1951 and the first inductee into the BHS Hall of Fame.*