

## Edgewood keeps on trucking, EMCA heads to playoffs

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It is a good old fashion rivalry whenever Edgewood faces Ft. Dale Academy. The outcome has no bearing on the playoff picture because Edgewood is in Class AA of the AISA and Ft. Dale is in Class AAA. Edgewood coach Bobby Carr and Ft. Dale coach Speed Sampley are good friends but they both like the idea of beating each other. Last Friday night it was more than a rivalry, because Edgewood was trying to preserve its long win streak. Thus far in 2013 they have managed to remain undefeated despite a long list of injuries and, having very few upper classmen in uniform. The Wildcats have also played the last part of the season without its high value quarterback, Taylor Hawthorne, who is still nursing a knee injury.

Edgewood and Ft. Dale slugged it out, but in the end, it was the Wildcats who proved the best, and preserved their winning streak with a 52-36 win. Edgewood has now won 41 consecutive games.

Josh Crawford, who has filled in as signal caller in Hawthorne's absence scored 6 touchdowns against Ft. Dale. And to make sure Coach Sampley was reminded of who he was playing, Edgewood's coach Bobby Carr pulled magic out of his hat when Jackson Tate threw a surprise pass from punt formation to Jake Sisson for a 48 yard touchdown midway in the fourth quarter. Carr, known for his offensive surprises, made sure this one worked and it proved to be the nail in Ft. Dale's coffin.

"I'm proud of the guys for continuing to work hard and do all they can to improve. Ft. Dale is the toughest opponent we faced this year and they rose to the occasion even though we did not have to win. Crawford was amazing and he has carried this team and helped our younger players to elevate their game," Carr said. "Now if we can get a healthy Hawthorne back on the field we can make another move forward."

Edgewood will host Lyman Ward Friday in a final regular season game this week.

In other local football news EMCA whipped Evangel Christian 23-8 and will go to the AISA playoffs. Michael Jones put EMCA ahead with a 22 yard field goal in the first quarter. Evangel's only score came on the ensuing kickoff return. In the second quarter EMCA took the lead for good with Chandler Warren hit Johnny Moore with a 35 yard touchdown pass. Hunter Buce and Sean O'Brien both scored on excellent runs in the second half. O'Brien finished the game with 160 rushing yards and Warren was 9-19 and 140 yards in the air.

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"Our defense was the bright spot for this game. They made some great plays and had some big stops. Our guys came to play and knew they had to win to make the playoffs," EMCA assistant coach Greg Parker said. EMCA now stands at 3-6 for the season and will travel north to play Cornerstone Christian in the final regular season game this week. The Wildcats will face Patrician Academy in the first round of the playoffs.

- Art Parker