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1 / 5 WRAPPED UP — Oriskany junior quarterback Matt Enos gets wrapped up by Cooperstown senior defensive end

Oriskany erupts late in eight-man debut

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ORISKANY — Despite trailing 20-8 at halftime, the Oriskany football team exploded to a 32-26 victory over Cooperstown in its first game of the eight-man football season at Bernie Block Field at N.A. Walbran Elementary School on a sunny and steamy Saturday afternoon.

After nearly three weeks of practice and a four-way scrimmage last weekend, all parts were moving in eight-man football, and Oriskany head coach Jerry Tine noted that the real-life competition was the biggest question mark heading into the game.

"We talk about drill and rep, drill and rep and practicing those good techniques," said Tine. "This is why, because when you're tired and it's hot and the game is on the line and it's back and forth, we stepped up and nobody quit on either side."

Cooperstown head coach Joe Pestar said the pace of play is much quicker compared to traditional 11-man football.

"It's a lot faster of a game," Pestar said. "There's a lot of different calls, everything's going so fast."

After a volley match back and forth, Oriskany junior quarterback Matt Enos put the game away on a 48-yard dart to Mykal Warcup on a second-and-six in the fourth quarter. Warcup exploded past the Hawkeyes defense to score and Enos hooked up with Warcup again on the two-point conversion.

Warcup finished the day with five receptions for 165 yards.

"The kids were relentless," said Tine. "They never gave up, they kept plugging and kept making it happen. Everyone tried to do their job and the wagon was heading in the same direction because of that."

Cooperstown senior quarterback Garrett Fassett completed the 3-yard quarterback sneak on the Hawkeyes' second possession of the game. Fassett completed the pass to Owen Kennedy for the two-point conversion with 3:46 remaining in the first quarter.

Enos answered back and hooked up with Devon Lacy for a 40-yard pass on the Redskins' next possession and Enos' run was successful on the two-point conversion to tie the game at 8-8.

Fassett hooked up with Kennedy for an 11-yard score but the run was not successful, leaving them at 14-8.

On third-and-three at the 10-yard line with roughly a minute and a half left in the first half, Enos's pass into the end zone was intercepted by Tyler Colombo, who hauled down the field for a 99-yard interception return. The two-point conversion failed and the Hawkeyes headed into halftime with a 20-8 lead.

The Redskins mounted their comeback on the coattails of freshman Aiden Fabbio, who scored a three-yard run.

"He stepped up and that's a surprise," said Tine about the freshman.

"He's playing maturity-wise out of his league. He's a very good athletic talent, and obviously it showed on the field. He made some big plays for us offensively and defensively."

Fabbio had six carries for 15 yards and received two passes for 14 yards. He also had two interceptions in the game.

On the two-point conversion, the Redskins were called for a holding penalty and forced back to the 20-yard line. Another flag was called on the replay, this time five yards on Cooperstown. Enos hooked up with Josh Strauss for the completed pass.

The Redskins regained the lead 24-20 with Strauss's seven-yard score on a third-and-six and the PAT run by Enos was successful. Strauss finished the day with 12 carries for 104 yards.

The lead was short-lived as Fassett hooked up with Colombo for an eight-yard pass to take a two-point lead over the Redskins at 28-26 with 10:23 remaining in the game. The PAT pass was broken up by Warcup.

Enos completed 13-of-22 passes for 263 yards. He rushed 16 times for 50 yards.

Defensively, Connor Blovat had 11 1/2 tackles, a pass breakup and one interception. Colin Kraeger had three tackles for loss.

Next week, Cooperstown heads to Section IV's Seton Catholic on Friday night at 7 o'clock, while Oriskany heads to longtime rival New York Mills on Saturday at noon.