



Register photos/ERIN CALDWELL

LEFT: A Youngstown Ursuline defender stops Port Clinton's Josh Hurst during a Division IV state semifinal against Youngstown Ursuline at Euclid Community Stadium on Friday. RIGHT: Port Clinton's Owen Auxter lunges to make a tackle. BELOW: Port Clinton's Anthony Aukerman breaks up a pass.

REDSKINS

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guard for his 37th rushing touchdown of the season, a new Ursuline single-season record.

The Fighting Irish converted a two-point conversion with a run to go up 8-0. Following another Port Clinton punt, Ursuline quarterback Brady Shannon completed a 40-yard pass to Dean Boyd down to the 8-yard line. That set up McElroy for another touchdown on the very next play, and the point after kick made it 15-0.

PC answered with a scoring drive bridging the first two quarters. Cornell ran for a first down, then caught one on a wheel route for 16 yards from Cam Gillum. Gillum proceeded to run for a first down himself.

On the second play of the second quarter, Gillum scrambled right but then rolled back to his left and spotted an open Colton Yarbrough, but the tight window led to a deflection off a diving Ursuline player. The initial bounce then hit off another Ursuline player before landing in Hurst's arms for a 4-yard TD catch.

"All these younger guys, they look up to us, and it's our job to make sure we set a good example," Hurst said. "I feel like they've got a lot of potential.

They're always making jokes, like you think Romney (Turner's) gonna be the next Josh Hurst? I'm like, I think any of you guys could be. You've just gotta put in the work."

Port Clinton got the ball back soon after by backing Ursuline into a third-and-23, and then after a long QB run, getting a pass breakup from senior Jackson on fourth-and-6.

The game nearly swung twice on two plays soon after. First, Gillum found Hurst for 37 yards down the field, but it was called back for an ineligible man downfield penalty. And on the next snap, Gillum was intercepted by CJ Frasco, who ran it back nearly 50 yards for a touchdown — but a roughing the passer penalty canceled it out.

Gillum ran for multiple first downs after that sequence, and then he ran around right end for a 6-yard touchdown with 2:22 until halftime. PC kicked the extra point again with Andrew Hanson to pull within 15-14 at halftime.

"Certainly you don't want to have a slow start against a team as talented as them," Carmon said. "It's tough to come back from that point. We did. We were able to make a game out of it."

Port Clinton scored first in the second half after stuffing a fourth-down attempt. The Redskins drove for more than seven minutes before Hanson



knocked in an 18-yard field goal to go up 17-15.

But PC wouldn't score again. Exactly a minute of game clock after the field goal, McElroy ran right up the middle for a 42-yard touchdown.

Then after two scoreless possessions, McElroy took a screen in the right flat for 55

yards to set himself up for a 2-yard score. And after a Port Clinton turnover on downs, McElroy went 74 yards to the house to remove any final doubt.

Ursuline's star running back ran for 261 yards and five scores while adding his 55 receiving yards.

"He's a talented running back," Carmon said. "We were there at times. There were tackles for loss, tackles for no gain, and then he broke a few. A kid like that's gonna do that."

After the final whistle and handshakes, Port Clinton gathered in front of its band for one last rendition of the PC alma mater. Then Carmon spoke to his team, praised the seniors, and spoke about memory.

"I'm gonna remember it as a season that I don't think I'll ever forget anytime soon," Carmon said following the speech. "Aside from everything, they represented Port Clinton extremely well... It makes Friday night fun to come to True-Lay Stadium in the fall, for sure."

Carmon implored his team to use the bus ride home as an opportunity to appreciate what they'd done. Port Clinton's football team truly touched the entire PC community.

On Monday, after Port Clinton's players had cleared out of their turf practice area in the school district's new field house, a young boy waiting for a different activity peered into the space.

"This is so cool," the youngster remarked, awe in his eyes.

To be sure, the high-end facility could've inspired wonder whether or not the football team that had just

practiced there was a state semifinalist. But as time goes on, as more small athletes enter the field house or drive by True-Lay Stadium or walk by trophy cases, there will be a new story to tell.

The story will be of a team picked to finish fourth in its own division that finished top-four in the entire state. It will be of a team that set individual and team records, rallied a community and fought against that outside doubt until there was no time left to fight.

The story will be passed down to that next generation — how the 2021 Port Clinton football team overcame an 18-0 deficit in Week 1, went perfect in the SBC Bay Division, won four playoff games and knocked off the defending state champion to claim PC's first-ever regional title.

And so even though Port Clinton's players won't return to that field house for another Monday practice this season, it'll still be there, waiting for those who will follow in this historic team's footsteps.

Cool, indeed.

Port Clinton	0	14	3	—	17	
Ursuline	15	0	6	13	—	34
U	— DeMarcus McElroy 33 run (Ty Req Downlow run)					
U	— McElroy 8 run (Reagan Smith kick)					
PC	— Josh Hurst 4 pass from Cam Gillum (Andrew Hanson kick)					
PC	— Hanson 18 field goal					
U	— McElroy 42 run (run failed)					
U	— McElroy 2 TD (kick blocked)					
U	— McElroy 74 run (Smith kick)					

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21260	2020	Dodge Gr.Caravan	\$337.00	21280	2018	Chevrolet Silverado	\$499.00	21323	2017	Nissan Titan	\$539.00
21325	2020	Ford Explorer	\$545.00	21292	2018	Chevrolet Trax 1LT	\$239.00	21265	2017	Volvo S60 Dynamic	\$269.00
21287	2020	KIA Forte	\$225.00	21283	2018	Ford Edge SEL	\$388.00	21322	2016	Chevrolet Suburban	\$538.00
21278	2020	Mitsubishi Eclipse	\$326.00	21319	2018	GMC Terrain	\$339.00	21328	2016	Chevrolet Traverse	\$388.00
21268	2019	Chevrolet Colorado	\$428.00	21276	2018	Honda Cr-v EX	\$339.00	21334	2016	Chrysler 200 S	\$199.00
21304	2019	Chevrolet Cruze	\$199.00	21321	2018	Hyundai Sonata SE	\$275.00	21329	2016	Dodge Journey	\$236.00
21271	2019	Chevrolet Equinox LT	\$299.00	21250	2018	Jeep Compass	\$343.00	21330	2016	Jeep Cherokee	\$238.00
21306	2019	Chevrolet Equinox LT	\$355.00	21333	2018	KIA Optima	\$349.00	21327	2016	Volkswagen Jetta	\$229.00
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21251	2019	Ford Escape	\$349.00	21297	2017	Chevrolet Malibu LT	\$258.00	21296	2015	Volkswagen Passat	\$198.00
21249	2019	Ford Fusion	SOLD \$229.00	21286	2017	Chevrolet Silverado	\$428.00	21273	2014	Cadillac CTS L	SOLD \$223.00
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21314	2019	Nissan Versa	\$219.00	21318	2017	Jeep Cherokee	\$265.00	21324A	2010	Cadillac SRX	\$158.00
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