

Wilson snaps record as Saints roll

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 08 October 2016 06:39 - Last Updated Wednesday, 26 October 2016 12:00



WAVERLY - Here's a friendly note to the public address announcer at Waverly-Shell Rock High School.

The name of the Xavier tailback is Maliki Wilson, not Malik, and he's now the most prolific runner in Saints history.

Wilson dashed for 172 yards Friday night and broke the school record for career rushing as the top-ranked Saints dismantled Waverly-Shell Rock, 42-0, in another lopsided Class 3A district game.

Wilson raised his career rushing total to 2,548 yards, snapping the old mark of 2,498 set by Brendan Miller in 2012 and 2013.

The public address announcer did a fine job most of the night, but he kept calling the Xavier tailback "Malik" instead of Maliki.

Wilson heard what the P.A. guy was saying, but brushed it off with good humor after the game.

"Yeah, please get it right," he remembered thinking during the game, "because I might become the all-time leader at my school."

Wilson ran for 1,273 yards last season and now has 1,275 this year. All told, he's lugged the ball exactly 300 times in his career and has averaged 8.5 yards per carry in a Xavier uniform

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with 26 rushing touchdowns.

"He's tough, man," said Xavier quarterback Bryce Schulte. "He can run by you, he can blow you over, he can juke you out. His line creates holes for him and he does the rest. He's just one heck of a running back."

Wilson will play at least three more games in a Xavier uniform as the Saints (7-0, 5-0) zoom toward the playoffs. He's already climbed to No. 10 in Metro rushing history with his 2,548 yards and has a good shot at reaching 3,000.

Wilson has set numerous records for the Saints this year and now his name is at the top of the all-time chart.



"Going into the season, I didn't even think about it," he said. "I think I saw it on Twitter one day."

Xavier Coach Duane Schulte saluted Wilson for breaking the record, especially in just 17 games.

"That speaks volumes to his hard work and his talent, because the guys that he's passed on our list at our school are some phenomenal football players," the coach said. "We've had some really good running backs and for him to get to the top is an honor."

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The Saints expected a stiff test from Waverly-Shell Rock, but it never happened. The Saints scored touchdowns on their first five possessions of the game and tossed in a safety for a 36-0 lead with 8:04 left in the second quarter.

"I didn't think it would be quite like that, but I'm happy for our guys," said Coach Schulte. "They figured out a way to get on the bus after a long day of school and come up and do the job."

Xavier trimmed Waverly-Shell Rock, 14-7, in the opening round of the playoffs last year and expected another tough ballgame with the Go-Hawks Friday night. Instead, it was 36-0 early in the second period.

"I thought it was going to be a good playoff look," said Wilson. "We were kind of surprised when we saw that score right away."

The Xavier defense held Waverly-Shell Rock (4-3, 3-2) to just 51 yards of total offense and three first downs. Last week, the Saints held Independence to 37 yards and one first down.

Xavier has whipped its five District 3 opponents by a combined score of 207-27. Friday's game was the 200th in school history and gave the Saints a 136-64 mark since 1998.

Wilson ticked off runs of 26, 26, 16, 13, 13, 12, 11, 10 and 10 yards, mostly in the first half as the Saints sliced through the Go-Hawks. The entire second half was played with a continuous clock and Coach Schulte emptied his bench in the third quarter.

Bryce Schulte had a big game for the Saints, rushing for three touchdowns and passing for two other scores with TD strikes of 11 yards to Brett Burns and 41 yards to Nolan Butkowski. Schulte has now accounted for 75 touchdowns in his career as a passer, runner and receiver and is the school's all-time leader in that category by far.

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Sam Meyers played another strong game for the Saints. He fell on the Waverly-Shell Rock quarterback in the end zone for a safety in the first quarter and also was one of the key blockers on the offensive line who paved the way for Wilson.

"Every play he hits somebody really hard," praised Wilson. "I love running behind him."

Xavier can clinch the district title with a victory over Vinton-Shellsburg next Friday at home.

XAVIER 42, WAVERLY-SHELL ROCK 0

Xavier WSR

First Downs	16	3
Rushing	40-275	22-minus 1
Passing Yards	99	52
Att/Comp/Int	8-12-0	8-14-0
Punts	3-37.3	6-30.0
Penalties	6-50	2-24
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	3/2

Xavier 22 14 6 0 - 42

Waverly 0 0 0 0 - 0

Scoring Plays

- X - Bryce Schulte 8 run (Shane Scott kick)
- X - Safety (WSR quarterback tackled in end zone)
- X - B. Schulte 1 run (kick failed)
- X - Brett Burns 11 pass from B.Schulte (Scott kick)
- X - Nolan Butkowski 41 pass from B.Schulte (Scott kick)

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X - B. Schulte 6 run (Scott kick)

X - Wilson 1 run (kick failed)

Individual Stats

Rushing

Xavier: Wilson 20-172, Junge 4-35, B. Schulte 5-23, Q. Schulte 2-23, Rodriguez 4-13, Lang 5-9.
Waverly: Chandler 2-17, Santoiemma 8-3, Leonard 1-2, Downing 2-1, Seward 1-0, Gayer 1-minus 9, Stensland 7-minus 15.

Passing

Xavier: B.Schulte 8-12-0, 99 yards.

Waverly: Gayer 2-3-0, 30 yards; Stensland 6-11-0, 22 yards.

Receiving

Xavier: Q. Schule 4-10, Butkowski 3-78, Burns 1-11.

Waverly: Little 3-14, Holmquist 1-30, Seward 1-4, McNally 1-3, Chandler 1-1, Willis 1-1.