

F411

TIGER FLASHBACK ATHENS ACADEMY 2009

Athens Academy's (3-1-0) green and silver clad Spartans made their bi-annual trek up Highway 441 in an attempt to ambush the (1-3-0) Tigers who were off to their worst start in many moons. AA had won only once in Tiger Stadium in nine attempts since the first game was played back in 1985, and the ancient warriors were intent on putting a clubbing on their old rival and hosts.

However, the hometown lads were ready and headed the Spartans off at the pass, as both the Tiger offense and defense played to perfection in building a (28-0) lead before eventually winning by a (28-7) score behind the four touchdown performance of Deon Brock. The senior tailback amassed 256 rushing yards in 16 attempts including a 96-yard run from scrimmage on his last tally of the evening.

After an exchange of punts to begin the eighteenth game of the rivalry, Commerce took its second possession at the AA 47. From this point the Tigers drove to the Spartan 25 where a fourth down run attempt by halfback Jon Cash resulted in a two yard loss with AA taking possession at the Spartan 27.

Unable to do any thing offensively against the stout Tiger defense and still early in the contest, the Spartans punted for the second time.

Late in the first period, Commerce launched its first of four touchdown drives of the night from the Tiger 39. The march of 61 yards on seven snaps resulted in a TD when Brock swept left end and into the end zone untouched from 23 yards out early in the second stanza. Josh Streetman's boot of the pigskin was successful for a (7-0) Tiger lead, and the Commerce offensive onslaught was off and running.

Athens Academy's next drive was halted after knocking out one first down when the Spartan quarterback's forty yard bomb was hijacked by who else but Tiger defensive back Deon Brock at the Commerce 17.

Late in the half after a series of three punts being forced by the stalwart defenses of both teams, Tiger safetyman Casey Drinkard intercepted another Spartan aerial at the AA 37.

With only 43 ticks left on the halftime clock, Commerce mounted its second scoring drive of the night using only 14 seconds off the clock and three plays. The drive was culminated by 29-yard scoring strike from freshman quarterback Cody Streetman to Deon Brock at the 0:29 mark of the second period.

Josh Streetman's kick was again successful, and the Tigers sprinted to the field house for the halftime break clutching to a (14-0) lead.

To start the second half, the Tigers kicked off and immediately put the breaks on the Spartan offense forcing the Academy's fourth punt of the night.

Enter Deon Brock once more. The slightly built speedster wasted no time, as he bolted over left tackle and sprinted down the Tiger sideline toward the construction site of the new gym facility on the hill for a 69-yard touchdown. Josh Streetman added the PAT for a (21-0) Tiger lead.

Athens Academy then mounted their first serious scoring threat of the evening, as they drove 57 yards in seven plays to the Tiger eight before an AA back fumbled with Josh Streetman recovering for Commerce near the goal line at the four yard stripe.

Enter Mr. Brock once more, as the fleet tailback burst over left tackle behind the superb blocking of Tyler Austin, Jake Hill and Zach Harmon. After breaking the line of scrimmage, the senior tailback turned on the afterburners and left the Spartan defenders in the damp turf, as he strolled untouched for 96 yards and the touchdown. This is the second longest TD gallop in Tiger history behind the 97 yard run of Monte' Williams in 1997 vs. Landmark Christian.

Following the touchdown, Streetman's kick was good once more for a (28-0) Tiger advantage halfway through the third period.

A series of punts and a fumble by AA ate up the next three possessions, before AA scored on a five-yard run late in the final stanza to cut the lead and eventual final score to (28-7).

The Commerce offense knocked out 352 total yards with 310 coming by way of the ground attack, while the Tiger defense limited the potent AA offensive attack to only 183 total yards and nine first downs, as both sides of the Tiger line of scrimmage dominated the game along with the efforts of the fabulous Mr. Brock.

Other superlatives in the game were: Garrett Wilson, Mason Westmoreland, Joseph Sanders, Carl Allen, Josh Swistak who led the defense with nine tackles, Casey Drinkard and Jessie Savage.

The 2009 Commerce Tigers went on to post a record of (7-5-0) with six other wins over Morgan County, Athens Christian, Lakeview Academy, Social Circle, Prince Avenue

and Landmark Christian while losing to Jefferson, Franklin County, Lincoln County, Wesleyan and Darlington.