

Mercer 8, Knights 7

Backup quarterback Eddie Maddox was tackled in the end zone for a Mercer safety with 10:20 left, erasing a 7-6 Franklin lead. The Knights were limited to minus 12 yards (all rushing) in the first half before starting QB Landon Lynch connected on two straight passes, the second of which went to Jayden Wilmoth for a 46-yard touchdown. It came with 1:14 to go before intermission. Connor Ritchey's kick gave the Knights a 7-6 lead, which they held until the safety. Lynch was knocked out of the game on a 9-yard sack two plays before the safety. Sophomore Freddie Blackhurst pretty much finished out the game at quarterback. An interception led to Mercer's TD, an 8-yard run midway through the second quarter. The victory was Mercer's first over Franklin since 1955, and snapped a six-game losing streak to the Knights. Ritchey (LEFT) punted seven times for a 42.3 average, and Julian Johnson had an interception. The Knights finished with minus 1 yards total offense.

Slippery Rock 38, Knights 7

Sophomore Fred Campagna passed for 319 yards and four touchdowns for the Rockets, who after a long and scoreless third quarter, eventually mercy ruled the Knights. Slippery Rock led 28-0 at intermission with Campagna throwing three TDs, two to Cooper Glass (five catches, 114 yards). Sophomore Caden Mincer (CENTER) had a big game for the Knights with a career-high 149 yards rushing on 21 carries, including a 2-yard touchdown late in the game. Connor Ritchey added the extra point. Franklin had a couple of chances to score earlier, getting a first-and-goal from the nine in the first half, but the Knights settled for a field goal attempt, and they didn't get it off due to a bad snap from center. They also reached the red zone early in the third quarter, but ended up with a fourth-and-27 from the 36, thanks, partly, to a holding call. The Rock outgained Franklin, 485-177.

Franklin 40, Warren 18

Sophomore Caden Mincer ran for a career high 260 yards on 31 carries and scored four touchdowns in the victory. Mincer, who scored on runs of 4, 31, 5 and 50 yards, is the 20th player in FHS history to top the 200-yard mark in rushing. The 260 ranks No. 3 on the school's all-time list behind Shawn Young's 292 vs. Fairview in 1991 and Butch Conrad's 267 vs. Oil City in 1959. The game was suspended Friday due to lightning and resumed Saturday. The Knights held a 12-6 lead on Mincer's 4-yard run and a 1-yard plunge by Eddie Maddox when the game was called Friday. When the game resumed Saturday a 37-yard fumble return by Jeremy Cunningham (RIGHT) extended the lead to 19-6 early in the second quarter. Mincer made it 26-12 when he scored from 31 yards out, the first of his three second-half TDs. All four Franklin TDs Saturday were punctuated by Connor Ritchey kicks. Mincer's 5-yard run came a play after a 55-yard pass from Jason Carey to Landon Lynch. Mincer is the first Knight to score four touchdowns in a game since Dalton Buckley in 2019. Franklin's most recent 200-yard rusher before Mincer was Zak Lynn, who ran for 240 vs. Bradford in 2015 and 238 vs. Oil City in 2014. Herb Eckert produced a 249-yard game in 1922 against Meadville, but all of his yardage may not have been accounted for. Freshman Aiyden Corbett led the Dragons with 152 yards on 14 carries, including a 59-yard touchdown run. Noah Brustle blocked two extra points, and Mincer and Evan Steigerwald were all over the place on defense.

General McLane 62, Knights 0

And the beat goes on...General McLane extended its all-time record to 14-0 against the Knights as Isaac Zietz threw five touchdown passes -- two to his brother Jacob. Stats reflected the lopsidedness of it all: 574-51. Zietz completed 16 of 25 for 280, but he was intercepted by Julian Johnson and Jacob Riddle. McLane led 41-0 at intermission.

North East 38, Knights 7

Previously winless North East ran all over the field against the Knights in a game that was delayed early in the second quarter by lightning. The Grape Pickers led 10-7 at the time and when the game was resumed at 9:35, tacked on four more touchdowns. North East took a 3-0 lead on a 34-yard field goal and two plays later, after an interception, made it 10-0 on a short run. The Knights' only touchdown came on a 24-yard run by Caden Mincer late in the first quarter. Connor Ritchey, who kicked the extra point after Mincer's TD, got off a 72-yard punt before distant lightning interrupted the proceedings two minutes into the second quarter. North East outgained the Knights, 402-200. Mincer finished with 111 yards rushing on 14 carries.

Erie 74, Knights 0

Without five starters out with injuries, the Knights were no match for the 6A Royals, who scored early and often. Erie led 42-0 at the quarter and 62-0 at intermission, but the halftime score did fall short for most points scored against Franklin in a half. That record belongs to Grove City, which was up, 71-0, over Franklin in 2010. Erie outgained the Knights 363-25.

Meadville 62, Knights 6

The Knights did score in the first quarter, but trailed 49-6 at halftime. Those six points came on two Connor Ritchey field goals covering 21 and 30 yards. The first came after the Knights drove to the MASH 4 after the opening kickoff, compliments of passes from Jason Carey to Landon Lynch for 20 yards and 42 to Jayden Wilmouth. Liam Grigsby's 74-yard kickoff return set up the second field goal. Still, the Knights managed only 80 yards total offense (three rushing) compared to 553 by the Bulldogs, who scored five TDs in the second quarter and sandwiched two chunk yardage TDs between the two Franklin field goals in the first.

Knights 40, Eisenhower 34, OT

Caden Mincer's 4-yard TD in overtime was the game-winner for the Knights, who were looking to end a four-game losing streak and fell behind 14-0 early in their homecoming game. Still trailing 34-26, the Knights sent the game into overtime on Landon Lynch's 19-yard fumble return and Freddie Blackhurst's two-point conversion with 1:56 left in regulation. Actually, they were down 34-20 early in the fourth quarter after a 63-yard run by Eisenhower's junior quarterback, Caleb Jakubczak, who accounted for three other TDs, two on passes and the other on a 47-yard punt return to open the scoring. Franklin answered with a drive to the 1 only to fumble. But the defense forced a punt, which Blackhurst returned 23 yards to the 18. Mincer scored from the 1 to make it a 34-26 game before Lynch's heroics. Eisenhower had the ball first in overtime and Jayden Wilmouth made a stop on the two on fourth down. Earlier, Mincer scored on runs of 25 and 4 yards. Blackhurst hit pay dirt on a 1-yard run after a 34-yard pass from Jason Carey to freshman Liam Grigsby to get the Knights on the board. Wilmouth stripped the

Eisenhower return man of the ball on the ensuing kickoff, recovering on the 35 to set up Mincer's 25-yard TD that tied the score at 14-14. The four-touchdown game was the second of the season for Mincer, who finished with 131 yards on 20 carries. Freshman Luke Marsteller had an interception, Evan Steigerwald recovered a fumble and Connor Ritchey kicked two more extra points.

Oil City 48, Knights 6

The Knights made things interesting for a while. After Oil City staged an 85-yard march to take a 6-0 on its first possession, the Knights threatened to tie the score and more on Caden Mincer's 55-yard dash to the 12. But a holding call, a no gain and a 1-yard loss pretty much forced them to settle for a 35-yard field goal by Connor Ritchey. That made it 6-3 before a 98-yard kickoff return by De'Vaughn Griffin extended the Oilers' lead. Still, the Knights kept clawing back, staging a long drive that stalled on the 25. Ritchey responded with his second field goal, this one a career-long 42 yards and his fourth of the season. But the Oilers answered with a 62-yard run -- one of five TDs by Steven Heise -- a safety when a low snap went out of the end zone and another patented tailback-oriented scoring drive for a 29-6 halftime lead. And when Dawan Cruz returned the second-half kickoff 70 yards to set up another TD by Heise the Oilers were on their way to a mercy rule. The Knights had one other chance to score late in the game with a first-and-goal from the 5, but were turned away again. The Knights, who already were playing without Freddie Blackhurst and Evan Steigerwald, lost QB Jason Carey on that march on a late hit injury. The Knights were outgained, 365-165, with Mincer contributing 96 yards on 25 carries. It was the Knights' eighth straight loss to Oil City, their last win coming in 2017.

Lakeview 44, Knights 12

The Sailors scored the first 38 points of the game and had a 44-6 lead and a whopping 446 yards total offense by halftime. Finals stats were 597-96 (the Knights rallying from being in the red rushing yards-wise at intermission). However, Caden Mincer finished with a nice game: 81 yards rushing on 18 carries and a touchdown on a 1-yard run. Franklin's other TD came on a 10-yard pass from Jason Carey to freshman Conor Johnson -- the only score by either team after intermission. Jayden Wilmoth caught six passes for 56 yards and Connor Ritchey averaged 42 yards on three punts. Liam Grigsby chipped in with a 45-yard KO return. The Knights for the second straight game were down a few starters due to injury. Lakeview QB Leyton Zacherl passed for 282 yards and four touchdowns, and Blake Skiles caught five passes for 151. The Knights closed with a 2-8 record. The Sailors will take a 5-5 mark into the Class A playoffs.