

## SPORTS

## Springbrook dominates Magruder in the mud 30-0

By Joe Slaninka  
Sentinel Sports

A combined nine turnovers between Magruder and Springbrook Saturday afternoon was the result of a week's worth of steady rain that soaked Springbrook's field, but the Blue Devils came out on top, with their second consecutive shutout, 30-0, in front of their homecoming crowd.

Springbrook (5-2 overall, 3-0 4A East) won its last two games by a combined score of 77-0 and has an extremely tough stretch of games ahead against one-loss teams Whitman, Sherwood and Paint Branch.

"Our special teams made a big difference, and our defense did a great job," Springbrook head coach Rob Wendel said. "They played with a lot of passion. I don't know if it was the rain and the mud or what, but it was good to see."

The turnovers plagued the Colonels (3-4, 2-2) most of the game

and after forcing the Blue Devils to punt, Magruder gave it right back, fumbling on their won 20-yard line during the return.

Four plays later, Springbrook's junior running back Devon Pestano punched it in from three yards out for the game's first score. Pestano scored on the two-point conversion to extend the lead, 8-0.

"We set the tone for the game early, and that was big," said Pestano, who finished with a game-high 63 yards on 21 carries. "We practiced hard for this game so we could do all the right things. It means a lot."

The turnovers continued as the Blue Devils coughed it up on their own 10-yard line two plays after blocking a punt late in the first quarter. The Colonels stalled and were forced to punt, which resulted in a safety when the snap sailed over Griffin Eldridge's head. He recovered the ball and threw it out of the end zone, which extended the

Springbrook lead, 10-0.

The Blue Devils went 70 yards in nine plays on the ensuing drive. Pestano capped the drive on a one-yard run to put his team up 18-0 going into halftime.

"Springbrook came out with a lot of intensity; it's their homecoming, and they played hard," Magruder coach Shawn Prather said. "I'm not going to blame it on the weather. They were flying to the football and being aggressive, and we made some mistakes."

The second half did not go any better for Magruder, which threw an interception on its first series and fumbled on its third. Springbrook's Ray Vernet picked up the loose ball at the Colonels' 14-yard line, and Pestano scored his third touchdown three plays later to give the Blue Devils a 24-0 lead on a 3-yard run with less than eight minutes to play.

Springbrook senior quarterback Eric Frieni found Kenny Godfrey



PHOTO BY BILL WYCKOFF

Turnovers dominated the Springbrook and Magruder game last week, but Springbrook still came away with the victory.

on the team's next drive - after forcing Magruder to punt - for a 28-yard touchdown to preserve the 30-0 shutout win.

Springbrook keeps its playoff hopes alive with the victory but has a

grueling stretch of games ahead of them.

"It was tough, but that's football," Wendel said. "This is a brutal week coming up with Whitman. I hope we continue to play well."