



Game of the Week

CLARKSBURG (3-0) AT WOOTTON (2-1) » 6:30 P.M., FRIDAY

FIVE KEYS TO THE GAME

- 1. Contrasting styles.** Clarksburg wants to control the ball and eat the clock with its punishing ground attack. Wootton plays a freewheeling, no-huddle spread offense. Which style will prevail?
- 2. Big game atmosphere.** Neither team is accustomed to playing an important game with playoff implications. Which will handle the big-game pressure best?
- 3. Quick strike.** Wootton has a big-play threat in first-year WR **Stephon Ngoumou** (9 catches, 248 yards). Clarksburg answers with Baltimore-transfer **Avery Graham**, who has a KO return TD.
- 4. Turnovers.** With safety **Brandon Martin** (3 INT) leading the secondary, Clarksburg has been adept at forcing teams into passing situations and making them pay.
- 5. The Edge.** After upsetting undefeated Class 4A neighborhood rival Whitman last week, can Wootton reach the same emotional peak for 2A Clarksburg?

Clarksburg



RB Mark Small vs. LB Brendan Ray

The junior speedster (56 carries, 418 yards) runs behind a physical line led by Marcus Kinney and Tim Meiklejohn.



FB/DT Rob Osborne vs. C/DT John Dillon

Devastating lead blocker at 6-0, 280 keys Coyotes' smash-mouth offense and pass rush pressure on defense.



S Brandon Martin vs. QB Mike Mooney

Calls signals on defense, a responsibility that takes on added importance against Wootton's no-huddle, spread offense.

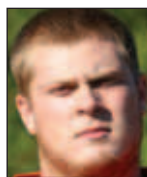
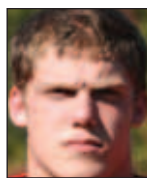
Key matchups

The 6-1, 215-pound senior leads an active LB crew that includes senior Mike Ashe, and juniors Mike Cresham and Justin Dhyani.

The 6-2, 275-pounder anchors both lines for the Patriots. "We haven't seen a better center," said Clarksburg coach Larry Hurd.

Trigger man for Pats' spread offense leads Montgomery County in completions (53), attempts (89) and passing yards (576).

Wootton



Clarksburg coach Larry Hurd Jr. (36-10 career record) leads the second-year Coyotes against Wootton Friday night. — Examiner file photo

Fourth and goal

After playing in the state championship game in 1990 and qualifying for the playoffs the following year, Wootton has not had a winning season. The 15-year streak is the longest in Montgomery County.

Last year

When the teams met in Week 9, Clarksburg scored the opening touchdown, but after that it was all Wootton as QB **Mike Mooney** threw three TD passes to **Bryson Shields** and LB **Brendan Ray** had 10 tackles in a 27-6 victory.

STATE OF THE TEAMS

In just its second season of varsity football, **Clarksburg** is off to a perfect start, out-scoring teams (including two 4A squads) 100-26. Coach Larry Hurd, Jr.'s Coyotes have just five senior starters, but may be destined for a berth in the Maryland Class 2A playoffs. Team plays low-risk offense, depending on its ground game. Clarksburg has surrendered only one first-half TD.

Since taking over at **Wootton** in 2005, Greg Malling has instilled enthusiasm and discipline. After two straight 2-8 seasons, Malling's program building efforts have produced results. Last week's 24-13 win over Whitman was arguably the school's biggest since 1991. After featuring a power running game his first two seasons, Malling has gone to a spread offense, featuring junior QB Mike Mooney.

Examiner predicts:

Wootton is vastly improved from last season, but with virtually its entire team back, plus a few talented newcomers, Clarksburg has come even further and will show it with a methodical victory.

CLARKSBURG 20, WOOTTON 14

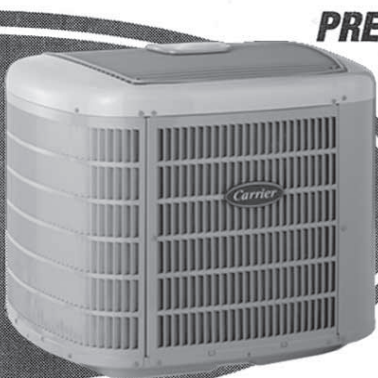
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