

Holy Cross enjoys big catch, huge double overtime win over rival Jesuit

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PHOTO GALLERY

NEW ORLEANS – Holy Cross’ 28-21 double overtime win against Jesuit Friday night might be remembered as the game of “The Catch.”

Bret Carter’s leaping catch provided the Tigers “with a little magic” and a new life in the first overtime.

Carter had to leap over defenders in the end zone, just inside the sideline to keep Tigers in the game on a fourth down and 11 play. The touchdown reception allowed Holy Cross to tie the Jays 21-21 on the first OT.

Jesuit had scored on the overtime's first possession and then forced the Tigers into a fourth and 11 hole. Quarterback Chandler Fields rolled right threw into tight coverage and Carter rose high to secure the ball.

"Maybe there was a little magic in the air tonight," head coach Eric Rebaudo said of the catch, after his Tigers (4-1, 2-0) won the District 9-5A game.

Fields saw "the defensive end come up and I knew I had to make a move. I saw (Carter) got some separation. I threw it up and he made a play for me."

Freshman Fields finished the scoring with a 10-yard pass to Tyler Lamm, making it 28-21. Fields completed 9 of 13 for 110 yards.

After Carter's sensational catch, Holy Cross stopped the Jays at the 1-yard line on a fourth down play that might have also continued the game.

Jesuit's Connor Prouet carried from the four yard line and appeared to have a lane to the end zone. Tigers Jacques Boudreaux, Jack Heidingsfelder, and Chris Collett closed the gap.

"We were trying to sub (on the Jays' fourth down play), to get some matchups," said Rebaudo. "We had leverage, we did what we had to do . . . we had a cluster there and I believe a backer (Boudreaux) finished it up."

It was the 95th meeting between the two schools, a rivalry that is the oldest in the state. The atmosphere was not lost on Fields.

"To feel the atmosphere on the field is pretty sweet," he said.

Jesuit had taken a 14-7 lead in the third quarter after Holy Cross' offense failed to get a first down until the final play of the period and twice had to punt into a 14 mph wind that was gusting to 20 mph.

Jesuit turned those punts of 11 and 16 yards into a 42- and 35-yard touchdown drives.

Quarterback Peter Hontas needed only seven plays for the first score, a 5-yard run by Prouet. Prouet, who gained 161 yards on 28 carries, finished the second drive with a 1-yard scoring run.

After Holy Cross finally got a first down, Kyle Schexnayder quarterback the Tigers 73 yards in 18 plays a drive that consumed more than nine minutes. Ashton Smith's 1 yard run tied it at 14 with 4:23 remaining.

Jesuit drove to the Tigers 3, but missed a 21-yard field goal kicked into the wind with nine seconds remaining in the game.

The only score in the first half came on Holy Cross' first possession and followed the game's only turnover.

Jesuit took the opening kickoff and quickly moved from its 26 to the Tigers' 33. On a third and six from there, Hontas hit Kalija Lipscomb with a short pass that ended in a fumble and the Tigers recovered at the 25.

Fields converted three key third down pass plays and the Tigers went the 75 yards in 13 plays, taking more than six minutes off the clock.

On third and goal from the nine, Fields hit Andres Acuna for the touchdown and the Tigers led 7-0.

Jesuit's only serious first half threat came on its next possession. The 52-yard drive advanced to the Tigers' 23, but ended with a 40-yard field goal attempt blocked by Holy Cross' C.J. White.