

**Weekly Article for Neil Jacob's 105-1 Team vs Horsham Hawks 105-1
Playoffs – Game #1 October 24, 2009 2:00 pm at Hickory Park Field #1**

Marsh Creek Eagles 25 – Horsham Hawks 0

The Marsh Creek Eagles began the 2009 Playoff season with a convincing win over the Horsham Hawks in yet another game played on a wet and sloppy field. This was a true “Mud Bowl” played at Hickory Park. Noah Hahn was the first to get his uniform drenched with mud as he made the tackle on the opening kickoff. The Hawks had a quick 4 and out on offense thanks to a big 3rd down hit from Alec Walter with help from Grey Jacobs who prevented the ball carrier from turning the corner. A 4th down halfback option pass fell incomplete and the Eagles took over possession at the Horsham 45 yd line.

Kyle Hegarty picked up 5 yds on the first play from scrimmage with a hard run and then Stephen Koons picked up a couple first downs with two impressive runs; each time bobbing and weaving with Horsham Hawks swarming all around him, setting up the Eagles with first and goal from the 8 yard line. Koons then bounced outside the strong side of the offensive line for an 8 yard TD run. Drew Rafferty followed with his usual smash mouth run up the middle for the extra point and the Eagles led 7-0 after their first possession. Steven Clark made a nice solo tackle on the ensuing kickoff as the Hawks began their second possession. Dylan Rittenhouse made a nice tackle to stuff the Hawks on first down. After a QB end-around and a busted play, the Hawks were looking at 4th and short and they went for it again... Big Mistake! Cole Thomas burst threw the line; timing the snap beautifully and drilled the Hawks QB before he could even complete his attempted hand-off and the Eagles stopped the Hawks again on 4th down. After an off-sides penalty set the Eagles up at their own 48 yd line, Stephen Koons went to work again and took the handoff outside where he outran the Hawks for a 52 yard TD, his second of the day. The extra point was no good but the Eagles led 13-0 after two possessions.

The Hawks next series began with Ryan Betley busting into the Horsham backfield and making a tackle for a 5 yard loss. The Hawks however were able to convert a 3rd and long into a first down to keep the drive alive. A generous spot after the Eagles appeared to have stuffed Horsham on 4th and short gave the Hawks another first down on the drive at the Marsh Creek 30 yd line. The drive ended however when David Gallagher alertly jumped on a live ball – the result of an incomplete pass behind the line of scrimmage. On the Eagles next possession - Gallagher then put on his QB hat and hit a streaking Ryan Betley over the middle for what appeared to be a long TD pass; however credit to the Horsham Hawk who managed to get just enough of Ryan's foot to trip him up and prevent the TD. Despite a couple strong runs from Drew Rafferty the Hawks were able to stop the Eagles for the first time all afternoon. After the defense forced a quick 4 and out; the Eagles struck again when Stephen Koons scored his 3rd TD of the day on a 10 yd run. The drive was set up by a 38 yd pass play from QB Gallagher to his reliable TE Ryan Betley who played another strong game despite playing with a bruised arm. The half ended when Brandon Peterson stuffed a Horsham Hawk behind the line for a loss. Eagles 19 – Horsham0.

The second half began when Kevin Smyth did a nice job recovering an on-sides kick attempt by Horsham. The Eagles then pounded the ball for most of the 3rd quarter behind runs from Drew Rafferty and Cole Thomas. A 10 play drive ended deep in Horsham territory after MCE lost a fumble which was

recovered by Horsham. The drive consumed most of the clock and Horsham's only possession in the third was ended behind strong defensive plays by Jason Reynolds who made a nice tackle behind the line to break up HB pitch and Dylan Rittenhouse who made a nice tackle on 4th down to end the drive. Marsh Creek took over at the 13 yd line of Horsham and Koons took the first carry into the endzone. His 4th TD of the day was unique in that he appeared to be stuck in the middle of a mass of Hawks and Eagles when suddenly he was the only player to emerge from the pile and raced into the endzone. The extra point kick was no good but the final score was set – Marsh Creek Eagles 25 – Horsham Hawks 0. Cole Thomas, Kevin Smyth, Steven Clark and Dylan Rittenhouse made sure the Hawks' final two possessions of the game, went no where with their strong defensive efforts and solid tackling. With the convincing win, the undefeated Marsh Creek Eagles advanced to the Bux-Mont championship game to be held next week.