



Sedric McMillian of LIFT scored all three touchdowns and finished the season with 15.

**LIFT**

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The Jaguars went to a ground-oriented attack and hit paydirt in 11 plays. Sedric McMillian got the score from three yards out.

"Really, I thought our kids played above their heads," Davis said.

Stephan McMillian ran the ball tough in the middle and teamed with Roger Turner to give the Jaguars blocking to run behind on their off-tackle plays. Chris Green also stepped up with several key runs on trap plays. Sedric McMillian's conversion run cut the margin to 24-14.

LIFT held Mount Zion on its next possession and got several key catches from Jwan Walker on its way to another score. Walker, who had four receptions in the game to increase his total for the season to 38 and 1,123 yards, helped put the Jaguars in scoring territory. Sedric McMillian took a toss from William Conrad and sprinted nine yards to cut the margin to 24-20.

LIFT mounted several drives in both the third and fourth quarters. However, the Jaguars couldn't get into the end zone. Mount Zion had its only drive late in the fourth quarter, when the Warriors marched

from midfield to inside the Jaguars' five. However, LIFT's defense stopped the Warriors on four straight runs and the Jaguars took over on their own two with 1:52 remaining in the game.

LIFT again went to its spread game and quickly marched down to the Mount Zion 30. However a disputed clipping penalty cost the Jaguars a chance at a win. Conrad drifted back to pass and was trying to avoid a Warrior defender. Turner peeled back and seemed to have executed a picture perfect block, allowing Conrad to sidestep the defender and carry the ball down to the 20. However, the referee called a penalty from the spot, nullifying the run.

The penalty moved the ball from the 40 back to the Jaguars' own 45. Davis was also whistled for a penalty on the play.

"If I hadn't seen the play, I could have accepted it," Davis said. "That's what I told the referee. I told him that I saw the entire play from start to finish. It wasn't like I saw only part of it and it could have been a clip. But for my kids to work so hard and then have it taken away from them like that was hard to accept."

The penalty pushed the ball all

the way back to the Jaguars' 30. LIFT tried a double pass on the next play and Mount Zion intercepted and ran the ball back for a touchdown for the game's final score.

"Our kids took it hard because we considered the game our championship game," Davis said. "Going into the season knowing we couldn't make it to the playoffs, we had to have another goal for the kids to work toward. We said we wanted to go undefeated and then win against Mount Zion. I feel good about it because we had a chance to accomplish both. The sad thing is that controversial calls on the road cost us a chance at both."

"I'll take 8-2," Davis added. "A lot of people didn't think we'd even get the program off the ground, much less have this kind of season. It was important for these kids to have something positive in their lives and they did a great job. We can look back on this experience with a lot of pride. There aren't a lot of teams in the county who did that well record-wise."

"There are a lot of people who helped to make this possible and without them, we couldn't have even played a game this season," Davis said. "It's good to know there are people in the community who are genuinely concerned about kids."

**Press Box**

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responded after intermission and the Rams took charge with two scoring drives to put the game away. Newkirk went over the 1,000-yard mark for the season and finished the game with 145 yards. His 1,000-plus total marked the first time that a Ram running back has topped that total since Richard Huntley did it in 1995.

"The line stepped it up in the second half," Newkirk said. "After we went in at halftime and coach told us we had to forget about California and take care of this week's game, we came out in the second half and had an identity change. We really turned it around."

A relative unknown coming into the season, Newkirk said he felt a sense of accomplishment in reaching the 1,000-yard plateau.

"I feel great about it," he said. "Nobody's done that in five years. It's something that I'm very proud of."

After jumping out to a 14-0 halftime lead, the Rams seemed to go flat and Elizabeth City rallied to close the margin to 14-6 in the waning minutes of the first half. The Rams' offense struggled to sustain a drive in the second quarter, while the Vikings controlled the ball for most of the period.

Deryl Wilson, a senior cornerback, said the Rams were not focused at the start of the game but settled down and played hard in the second half.

"We came in a little flat," Wilson said. "It's hard against a team like Elizabeth City because they came in here and didn't have anything to lose."

Wilson, one of the Rams who was playing his final game at Winston-Salem State, said he was happy to end his home career with a win.

"I've had a lot of ups and downs since I've been here," he said. "It was very emotional at the beginning of the game. But we didn't start out playing well. I was glad that we finally found ourselves and started playing like ourselves. I was glad we could end it with a win."

Tory Woodbury gave the Rams a spark after coming into the game to replace freshman George Suggs, who started the game.



Newkirk

"My groin is still bothering me and I don't get many reps in practice," Woodbury said. "George is getting the reps so he's going to be the starter. But my job is to come in and do the job when I'm called on."

Woodbury said the Rams will have to be more prepared when

they step up to play the Division I-AA Tigers this week.

"We've got to be more focused," Woodbury said. "Grabbling is going to bring it and we have to be on top of our game. Last year they sneaked by us. But we're going to be ready this time."

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