

Pirates fall to Camden, lose big to Plymouth

From Staff Reports

For the Camden offense, it had been an uphill battle against Perquimans on Friday night.

When the Bruins needed a play, senior quarterback Brandon Underwood delivered.

Underwood completed the game-winning 60-yard touchdown pass to Will Bunton with less than two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter to lead Camden to a 16-12 win over rival Perquimans in a Coastal 10 Conference game.

Underwood accounted for two touchdowns for the Bruins (2-6, 2-2 Coastal 10).

Perquimans (4-5, 2-3 Coastal 10) had a chance on a final drive to win the game, but JR Williams intercepted a Dallas Hall pass in the rain to close out the game.

"Just been waiting for the kids to put together a game like they put together (Friday)," Camden coach Scott Jones said. "The defense kept us in the game."

Before the game-winning score by the Bruins, the Pirates appeared to deliver the



STAFF PHOTO BY MALCOLM SHIELDS

Camden quarterback Brandon Underwood (7) had a rushing and passing score against Perquimans, Friday.

knockout punch to Camden.

Hall scampered into the endzone from nine yards out, but Perquimans was called for holding and a taunting penalty, which negated the score and moved the ball back outside the Camden 20-yard line with 2:11 to go.

"It costs us," Perquimans interim coach Aaron Burke said.

To make matters worse for Perquimans, junior running back Dwan Williams

went down on the drive with an apparent lower body injury.

Williams, who entered the game with 742 rushing yards, had to be helped off the field.

Camden took advantage of the second chance as the Bruins got a stop fourth down to get the ball back.

That set up Underwood's pass to Bunton.

"Brandon has always been a pinpoint accurate passer,"

Bunton said. "You have to give credit to the line. That is where it all starts."

Underwood's return to the lineup after dealing with a concussion was a needed boost for Camden, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Perquimans' Max Norman took the opening kickoff back for a touchdown to start the game, but Underwood tied the game at 6-6 late in the first by breaking multiple Pirates tackles and sprinted 64-yards into pay dirt.

Perquimans took a 12-6 lead in the second on a Williams' 1-yard touchdown run with 2:35 remaining.

Camden cut the deficit to 12-9 just before halftime on a 30-yard field goal by Kevin Robertson.

Perquimans had opportunities to break open the game in the first half, but an interception by Bunton and a fumble by a Perquimans receiver deep in Camden territory ended drives.

The win was needed for Camden, which takes on conference co-leader Gates

this Friday in Gatesville. Per-

quimans, which had its senior night and regular season home finale against Camden, travels to Mattamuskeet on Friday.

PLYMOUTH 54, PERQUIMANS 19

In a game postponed until Oct. 17 because of Hurricane Matthew, Plymouth beat the Pirates 54-19.

Because the school was out for a week, Perquimans was hampered from practicing before playing last year's 1-A state champ.

Coach Burke said he was able to have two practices one of them had just 13 players available.

Perquimans let a tie game slip away before halftime with 20 unanswered points by the Vikings (5-3, 4-0).

The final 2:47 began with a spark when the Pirates' defense stuffed Plymouth on fourth down inches short of the goal line. Perquimans then got out of its own end zone on a 16-yard pass from Dallas Hall to Mahli Jones.

Two plays later, however, Dwan Williams had the

game's lone lost fumble on the 25. The Vikings did not waste another opportunity and went ahead 19-7.

A second costly turnover followed on a pick of a Hall pass returned for a touchdown with seconds before the half.

"We have to take advantage of the good things that happens for us, whether it's offense or defense," Burke said. "Good job by the defense with the stop, and they're only up one score. And then we fumble, and we can't have those mistakes against good teams."

To Williams' credit, he had all of the Pirates' touchdowns, all on the ground with the longest being from six yards out.

His second score closed the margin to 27-13 only to see the Vikings go back to bullying Perquimans' defensive front to give their carriers extra yardage.

Plymouth rushed for 346 yards. Even its one completed pass on third and long extended a drive that put the Coastal 10 power ahead for good early in the second quarter.

School, teams remember, honor Madelyn Byrum

BY OWEN HASSELL

The Daily Advance

To everyone who knew Madelyn Marie Byrum, her smile could light up all of Perquimans County.

It's that simple expression of happiness that made Byrum, who died tragically in an ATV accident in June, beloved by so many in such a tight-knit community.

Youth in the county also understand more than ever what that grin meant.

"Everything I do I do it for her, especially games," said Ellie Howard, one of Byrum's many friends and a Perquimans High JV volleyball player. "I love her."

Byrum, who would have been a sophomore at the school this fall and played on the co-ed soccer team, was remembered Friday night in a ceremony before Perquimans' football game against Camden.

Her fellow student-ath-

letes have made it their mission to remember her at all sporting events. Almost all have Twitter accounts with profile statements that read "Rest easy Madelyn" or use her initials MMB.

They partnered with a local printing company to make T-shirts with her jersey number, No. 4, on the front and her name on the back over top a soccer ball. Proceeds from T-shirt sales go to the Byrum family.

Many volleyball players sport headbands with MMB inscribed. Sophomore Cayce Copley, who like Byrum played sports last year as a freshman, said her memory will live on beyond all the Madelyn-inspired apparel.

"We've got T-shirts, headbands and everything, but what we try to do in her memory was the funeral where her dad said she always did everything so wholeheartedly," Copley said. "That shaped our volleyball team



STAFF PHOTO BY OWEN HASSELL

Two of Madelyn Byrum's closest friends, Ellie Howard and Daisy Swayne, hold up mementos of Byrum.

to make sure to give it all the time."

The show of support extends throughout the community.

An organization dubbed the Hertford Ladies - A Red Hat Group contributed \$500 as the initial contribution to fund the Madelyn Marie By-

rum (Those Who Give Back) Scholarship for a graduating senior in 2017.

The Perquimans Recreation Department got word of an individual willing to donate money for soccer shirts for all of its 4-6-year-old division teams.

Seeing that Byrum once

played at that level and that her parents still coach teams there, it gave department director Howard Williams an idea when presented with one team name of Madelyn's Angels.

"Why don't we do all teams like that?" wondered Williams.

So they did. There's Madelyn's Angels with red shirts, Madelyn's Angels with blue, and so on.

"Every time you turn around there's something about her, and it's a testament to her life and the person she was and the family she came from," Perquimans volleyball coach Kristie Thach said. "You do want to help people who deserve it and live the right way and set examples. I think Madelyn was a good example of what a teenager should be like."

Alec Nixon, a teammate of Byrum's on the soccer field, echoed Thach's words.

"She was just so nice," said

Nixon, who could still recite her phone number from memory without stumbling. "Never went to any parties or did anything bad or hang out with anybody bad. And she always laughed about stuff and smiled."

"She didn't care if you saw her braces. Even if she said, 'I don't want to do that today,' she would still smile about it."

No wonder everyone who talks about Byrum today always starts off with the same theme.

"No one will ever forget her smile," said volleyball's Megan Denson, who added they hung out together so much and looked alike that they were considered twins.

"It didn't matter what was going on, she was smiling," said teammate Samantha Midgett.

"She made everybody's day with her smile," said good friend and volleyball player Daisy Swayne.

FALL EVENTS IN HERTFORD

Perquimans County Library - Oct. 27

A Scary, Scary Night with Mr. Sid Eley and Mrs. Nelia Lane reading spooky stories. R.L. Stine's Mostly Ghostly, One Night in Doom House. All are welcome starting at 5pm.

Up River Friends - Oct. 29

Up River Friends will be offering food, games, prizes and a hayride on Saturday from 3-5pm. This event is for all ages.

American Legion - Oct. 31

American Legion Post 126 will host Trick or Treat Monday starting at 5pm

Trick or Treat Downtown - Oct. 31

The Perquimans County Chamber is hosting Trick or Treat with downtown merchants Monday from 3-5pm

Holiday Island Yacht Club - Oct. 31

Will sponsor Trunk or Treat in the HIPOA parking lot. Please bring treats to share with the kids, and feel free to dress in your favorite costume. Monday from 6-7pm



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