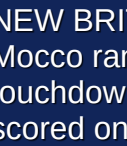




CLASS L



NEW CANAAN 34



CHESHIRE 13

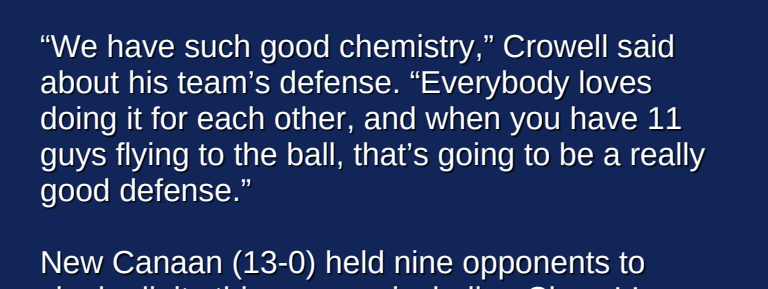
[Photo Gallery Link](#)

[Video Highlight Link](#)

Ned Griffen / Special to CIAC

NEW BRITAIN, Dec. 13, 2025 — Junior Finn Mocco ran 21 times for 162 yards and two touchdowns and classmate Jackson Crowell scored on a 46-yard interception return as No. 1 New Canaan rolled past No. 3 Cheshire, 34-13, to win its fourth straight CIAC Class L championship at Veterans Stadium.

Crowell's interception return gave New Canaan a 28-7 lead with 2 minutes, 22 seconds left in the first half.



"We have such good chemistry," Crowell said about his team's defense. "Everybody loves doing it for each other, and when you have 11 guys flying to the ball, that's going to be a really good defense."

New Canaan (13-0) held nine opponents to single digits this season, including Class LL champion Greenwich (14-7, Oct. 24). It also allowed just 90 points.

"It's a culture; a tradition," New Canaan senior linebacker Ryan Brooks said about the defense. "(It's) the way we fly around. It's every single second in the weight room."

Senior Bennett Heagle scored on a 4-yard run for New Canaan and sophomore Neel Arora kicked field goals of 31 and 28 yards.

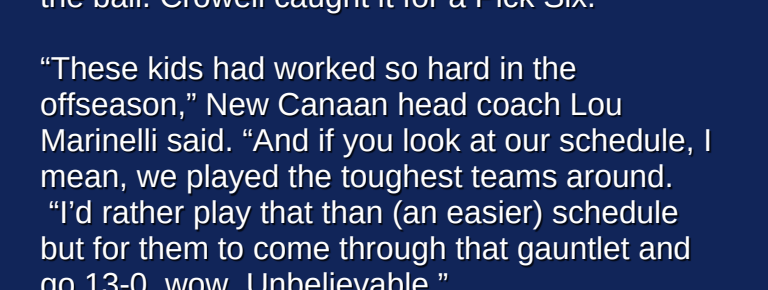
New Canaan tied St. Joseph for the second-most CIAC state titles (16). It also put itself in a four-way tie for the third-most consecutive state titles.

Ansonia was the first to win four in a row (1981-84) and New Canaan had already done it twice before (2006-09, 2013-16).



Cheshire finished 9-4 after a 2-2 start.

"I think it's the character of our kids," Cheshire head coach Don Drust said rebounding from a tough start. "When things are hard, what do you do, and that's who we are as a team. I think that speaks to the parents. It speaks to the kids that I get to coach and my staff."



Senior Aiden Gregorich ran 13 times for 141 yards and a touchdown for Cheshire. He also completed 12-of-23 passes for 105 yards, including an 11-yard touchdown to classmate Liam Suomala.

New Canaan decided to go for it on fourth-and-4 at its own 43 late in the second quarter when senior Grant Hickey hit Gregorich as he threw the ball. Crowell caught it for a Pick Six.

"These kids had worked so hard in the offseason," New Canaan head coach Lou Marinelli said. "And if you look at our schedule, I mean, we played the toughest teams around. "I'd rather play that than (an easier) schedule but for them to come through that gauntlet and go 13-0, wow. Unbelievable."

CLASS L CHAMPIONSHIP

New Canaan 34, Cheshire 13

CHESHIRE	7	0	0	6—13
NEW CANAAN	14	14	3	3—34

First quarter

N—Finn Mocco 19 run (Neel Arora kick)
C—Aiden Gregorich 1 run (Tim Reinhard kick)
N—Bennett Heagle 4 run (Arora kick)

Second quarter

N—Mocco 4 run (Arora kick)
N—Jackson Crowell 46 interception return (Arora kick)

Third quarter

N—Arora 31 field goal

Fourth quarter

C—Liam Suomala 11 pass from Gregorich (run failed)
N—Arora 28 field goal



RUSHING: Cheshire — Aiden Gregorich 13-141, Michael Chopak 12-41, Noel Martinez 2-0, Jacob Rivera 1-(-12). New Canaan, Finn Mocco 21-162, Henry Stein 4-16, Maddox Hoffman 3-4, Bennett Heagle 2-5, James McInerney 2-2, Charlie Koch 1-5.

PASSING: Cheshire — Aiden Gregorich 12-23-2-105. New Canaan — Maddox Hoffman 11-17-66.

RECEIVING: Cheshire — Liam Suomala 5-57, Michael Chopak 4-38, Sean Kennedy 1-12, Noel Martinez 2-1, Jonathan Heavens 1-(-12). New Canaan — Andrew Esposito 3-42, Ryan Brooks 2-8, Jack Valente 2-8, Bennett Heagle 2-6, Charlie Koch 1-6, Finn Mocco 1-6.

Records: New Canaan 13-0; Cheshire 9-4.

