



CLASS LL



GREENWICH 14



WEST HAVEN 0

[Photo Gallery Link](#)

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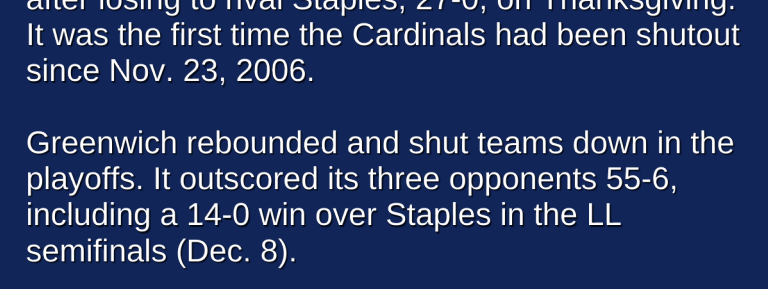
By New Griffen, Special to CIAC Sports

December 14, 2024

New Britain — Senior MJ D’Angelo ran 18 times for 202 yards and two touchdowns as third-seeded Greenwich beat No. 5 West Haven on Saturday night, 14-0, to win its second CIAC Class LL championship in three seasons at Arute Field.

It’s the 10th CIAC state title for the Cardinals (11-2). It was also the second time they beat West Haven this season. They beat the latter in the season-opener for both teams, 24-6, on Sept. 13.

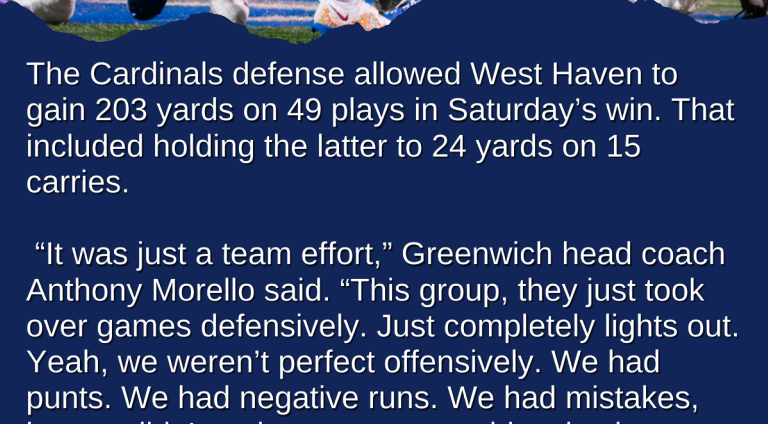
West Haven finished 10-3.



Greenwich played its best football in the playoffs after losing to rival Staples, 27-0, on Thanksgiving. It was the first time the Cardinals had been shutout since Nov. 23, 2006.

Greenwich rebounded and shut teams down in the playoffs. It outscored its three opponents 55-6, including a 14-0 win over Staples in the LL semifinals (Dec. 8).

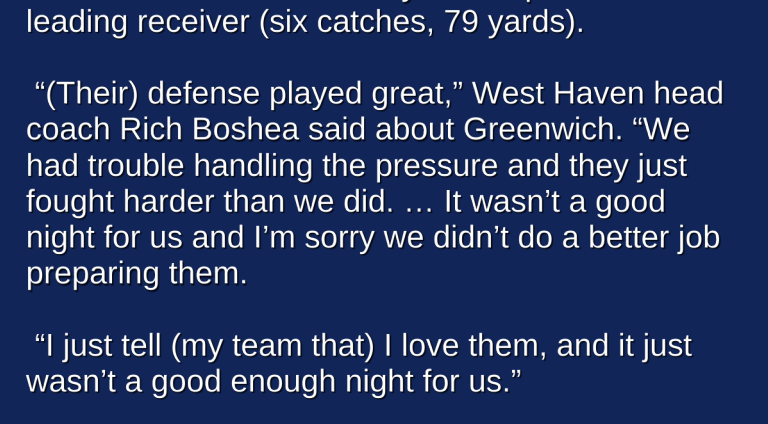
“We knew we were better than that,” D’Angelo said. “We just had to come out and make practice, every rep, mean something. We really did and we bounced back.”



The Cardinals defense allowed West Haven to gain 203 yards on 49 plays in Saturday’s win. That included holding the latter to 24 yards on 15 carries.

“It was just a team effort,” Greenwich head coach Anthony Morello said. “This group, they just took over games defensively. Just completely lights out. Yeah, we weren’t perfect offensively. We had punts. We had negative runs. We had mistakes, but we didn’t make any catastrophic mistakes.

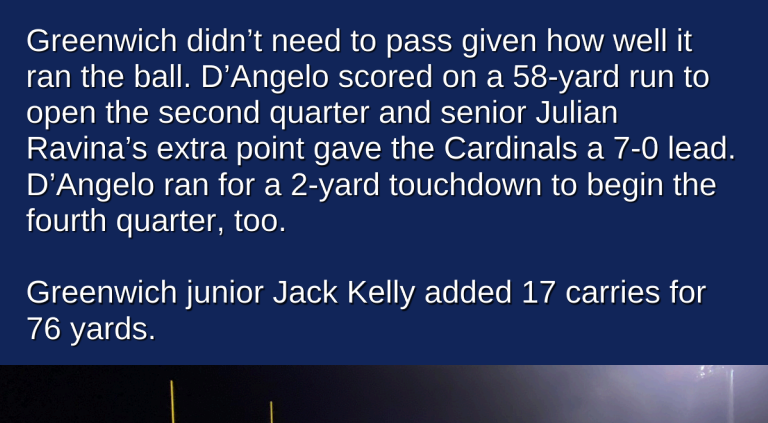
“I saw a completely committed, concentrated effort from everybody.”



Four-year starter Nick Conlan completed 17-of-34 passes for 179 yards with an interception for the Blue Devils. Senior Tahmayn Thompson was his leading receiver (six catches, 79 yards).

“(Their) defense played great,” West Haven head coach Rich Boshea said about Greenwich. “We had trouble handling the pressure and they just fought harder than we did. ... It wasn’t a good night for us and I’m sorry we didn’t do a better job preparing them.

“I just tell (my team that) I love them, and it just wasn’t a good enough night for us.”



Offensively, the Cardinals played like their teams of yesteryear as they ran 42 times for 293 yards. They only completed one pass.

“We’re not the best team throwing the ball, but our team morale is off the charts,” D’Angelo said. “I love this group more than anything in this world.”

Greenwich didn’t need to pass given how well it ran the ball. D’Angelo scored on a 58-yard run to open the second quarter and senior Julian Ravina’s extra point gave the Cardinals a 7-0 lead. D’Angelo ran for a 2-yard touchdown to begin the fourth quarter, too.

Greenwich junior Jack Kelly added 17 carries for 76 yards.



Greenwich 14, West Haven 0
(At Arute Field, New Britain)

West Haven 0 0 0 0—0
Greenwich 0 7 0 7—14

Second quarter
G—MJ D’Angelo 58 run (Julian Ravina kick)
G—D’Angelo 2 run (Ravina kick)

RUSHING: West Haven — Coryon Harris 8-21, Nick Conlan 7-2; Greenwich — MJ D’Angelo 18-202, Jack Kelly 17-76, Hector Lopez 8-21.

PASSING: West Haven — Nick Conlan 17-34-179-1; Greenwich — MJ D’Angelo 1-7-6.

RECEIVING: West Haven — Tahmayn Thompson 6-79, Andreivon Dixon 3-22, Coryon Harris 2-28, Tamrion Lafortune 2-27, Caron Hannans 1-5; Greenwich — Blake Martin 1-6.

RECORDS: G 11-2; WH 10-3.

