

Greensburg Central Catholic enjoying its “Miller Time”

**By Joshua Funk
For PA Football News**

Greensburg Central Catholic’s David Miller was asked how he thought the 2008 Interstate Conference championship banner would look in the school’s auditorium.

“Pretty good, I hope,” the senior back said.

Miller, though, is not the type of running back that believes in style points or giving the highlight reel runs. Instead, he prefers just flattening people, Dan Kreider style, and getting the tough yards while wearing down the WPIAL opposition.

It’s only fitting that Miller is the Centurions’ feature tailback – his smash-mouth style of running fits the strategy of his head coach, Muzzy Colosimo.

“I’m one of those guys that believes in smash-mouth football,” Colosimo said, following his team’s 28-14 demolition of defending PIAA “AA” champion Jeannette Saturday night from Hempfield High School’s Spartan Stadium.

The defeat of Jeannette was Greensburg CC’s first since 2005, and it snapped a three-game losing streak during which the Centurions were outscored a combined 73-22.

On this particular night, Greensburg CC’s powerful up-the-middle ground attack wasn’t really contained, a line that’s deceiving because the Centurions ran 43 times for 195 yards in the game.

Miller ran for 159 of those yards on 31 carries and scored two touchdowns, giving him 1,085 yards on the season and a WPIAL-best 32 touchdowns scored. Just in terms of touchdowns alone, Miller has scored 192 of Central Catholic’s 411 points.

Being the WPIAL’s leading scorer is something impressive for Miller, considering that the district boasts such scoring machines as Clairton’s Kevin Weatherspoon, Beaver Area’s Jake Nardone, and Beaver Falls’ Cody Cook.

Miller was asked if he was surprised by the fact that he’s the leading scorer in all of District 7.

“I’d like to see if any of them worked as hard as I did,” he said. “I was kind of hoping this year would play out as it did.”

Miller’s rushing success is not an accident – GCC produced a 5,000-yard rusher just a couple of years previous to 2008, in Max Suter. Suter ran for over 5,200 career yards, scored an inordinate amount of touchdowns, and played in the Big-33 Classic in Hershey before departing for Syracuse, where he’s now a kick returner.

Jeannette head coach Ray Reitz was asked if Miller showed him anything he hadn't seen on film.

"No, not really," Reitz said. "The kid's a good back. He ran hard (tonight)."

Miller's final carry of the night was a 32-yard touchdown run off right tackle – one of the few outside runs he was asked to execute in the game. Normally, he went right behind the center or the guards.

"That's kind of been the game plan all year, just to wear the opposition down," Miller said. "There wasn't any doubt in my mind that I could carry the ball 20 times."

Now, with one of the top seeds in the upcoming WPIAL "AA" playoffs, it begs to question just how far Greensburg CC can go.

Depending on the bracket assignment, the Centurions could be between a #2 to #4 seed. Could GCC get a rematch with Beaver Falls and avenge the first-round defeat the Tigers hung on the Centurions a year ago?

"It's football," Miller said. "Anything can happen."