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NORTH ANDOVER - Stonehill College traveled up to face former Northeast Conference foe Merrimack College Saturday afternoon.

The first half was dominated by the Merrimack Warriors, with the second half going back-and-forth, ultimately ending with Merrimack prevailing 48-28.

The success on offense for Merrimack was much due to their dominant run game. They totaled a whopping 375 yards on the ground.

Leading the way for the Merrimack ground attack was former Stonehill Skyhawk running back Jermaine Corbett.

Corbett rushed for 170 and two touchdowns - both of which came in the first half en route to a 27-0 lead entering halftime.

Even though Corbett was on the opposite sideline from the team he was a part of for two seasons, he did not approach this week any differently.

"Honestly, it wasn't a big motivational week for me," Corbett said. "[I more so] treated it as any other week."

Corbett has been a big addition to the Warriors offense and Merrimack head coach Mike Gennetti gave kudos to his running back.

"I don't know how to put it into words but he's been absolutely better than advertised. [He is] a tremendous player [and] approaches everything the right way."

Outside of Corbett's two first half touchdowns, the other touchdown before halftime came on a deep 49 yard strike from quarterback Ayden Pereira to wide receiver Jalen McDonald.

Kicker Lliam Davis also added 6 points of his own on two field goals - his first, a 26 yarder and second, a 53 yard make.

Despite producing next to nothing in the first half, Stonehill woke up in the second half to make things interesting.

The Skyhawks took their first drive on offense all the way to the end zone with running back Jarel Washington getting the score. He finished with 56 yards on 13 attempts along with the touchdown.

A high snap from Merrimack led to a fumble recovery by linebacker Tyler Bannon, giving Stonehill possession in enemy territory.

The Skyhawks took advantage of the turnover with a touchdown grab from tight end Cody Ruff to make it a 27-14 game.

Just two plays later, Merrimack had an answer with RB Brendon Wyatt scoring a 37 yard touchdown on just the second play from scrimmage.

Just before the end of the third, Stonehill RB Zavion Woodard decided to join the scoring with a touchdown run of his own.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, WR Seth Sweitzer tacked on another Merrimack touchdown, ending a 12 play drive.

Stonehill QB Jack O'Connell was next to score, diving into the endzone with just over three minutes left in the game. He finished with 51 ground yards, 166 through the air, one touchdown pass and two interceptions.

After a performance that included 94 pass yards and two touchdown passes coupled with 74 rush yards, Pereira was replaced by Malakai Anthony at QB.

Anthony made the most of his opportunity, taking a 42 yard run to the end zone that would be the final score of the game.

O'Connell threw his second interception to defensive back Nate Palanica Jr. allowing the Warriors offense to finish the game in victory formation.

Stonehill moves to 1-5 and has a home matchup against Duquesne at home next weekend.

Merrimack improves to 3-4 and now prepares for Colgate. Coach Gennetti is hoping to stay on the correct track versus the Raiders.

"Well I think it's easy when you're coming off two wins to get excited and revved up about [next game]. [We have] a Patriot League opponent that is traditionally a good football team and a tough program, so we're gonna have our hands full."

The game will take place next Saturday at Duane Stadium.

Jermaine Corbett Interview

- “Honestly, it wasn’t a big motivational week for me. [I more so] treated it as any other week.”
- “Big shoutout to the [offensive line]... They worked their tails off.”
- “Honestly, just attacking each week like it’s our last... I mean if you’ve seen our past games, we’ve been in almost every game.”

Coach Mike Gennetti

- “Well, obviously, the run game. I thought Jermaine did a great job in the run game. You know, we blocked them up really good. We played hard. We played pretty clean. We finished runs and when we needed the run game, we had it.”
- “I don’t know how to put it into words but he’s been absolutely better than advertised. [He is] a tremendous player [and] approaches everything the right way.”
- “Well I think it’s easy when you’re coming off two wins to get excited and revved up about [next game]. [We have] a Patriot League opponent that is traditionally a good football team and a tough program, so we’re gonna have our hands full.”