



EVERYDAY  
LOW PRICES  
GUARANTEED\*

Shop now ▶

www.lowes.com

Print | RSS | Mobile | News Feeds | E-Newsletters

Print | Subscribe | Jobs | Cars | Real Estate | Apartments | Shopping | Classifieds

Lancaster  
EagleGazette.com

SEARCH  
ALL

All Local News Calendar Jobs More ▶



SPONSORED BY



HOME NEWS SPORTS OBITS OHIO NEWS VOICES & VIEWS ENTERTAINMENT WEATHER NEIGHBORS CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE MULTIMEDIA

Comment, blog & share photos  
Login | Become a member | Search people

POWERED BY YOU AND THE LANCASTER EAGLE-GAZETTE

## Lancaster can't make comeback against Gahanna

BY SEAN GOLDEN • SPORTS WRITER • SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

📄 Read Comments (35) 📌 Recommend (1) 🖨️ Print this page 📧 Email this article 📱 Share

LANCASTER — The plan began at a hopeful whisper, but then grew louder and louder as Lancaster coach Bob Carpenter challenged his team following a 26-10 home loss to Gahanna on Friday.

ADVERTISING

THE GOLD DELTA SKYMILES® CREDIT CARD  
FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS



Apply Now

- Earn up to 25,000 bonus miles to use for any Delta seat, anytime.
- Pay for part of your flight with miles and put the rest on your Card.

\*Terms, conditions, and restrictions apply.

"Seven and three."

After assembling the end struggling to find consistency on offense for the second straight week, Carpenter focused his team squarely on the final five weeks of the season.

The Gales (2-7 overall, 0-2 Ohio Capital Conference Ohio) find themselves in the unfamiliar position of being under .500 at the midpoint of the season.

"We're 2-and-3, and we're below water right now," Carpenter said. "But, I told the guys, all three of our losses are to playoff teams from last year."

Gahanna utilized 228 first-half return yards from junior Earl Cunningham to set up two of its three scores in the first 24 minutes, including a 63-yard punt return for a touchdown that gave the Lions a 10-0 lead with 6 minutes, 30 seconds left in the first half that they would not surrender.

"Essentially the defense tonight was, they out-thiered us on special teams," Carpenter said.

Gahanna wideout Brandon Maglarowski caught 11 touchdown passes of 18 and 17 yards in the first half. The first coming after a 79-yard kickoff return by Cunningham.

Lancaster used three different quarterbacks on Friday, with just activated sophomore Nolan Flowers seeing the majority of the snaps.

Flowers hit Nathan Carpenter in stride on a punt made on his fourth pass attempt of the game for a 40-yard touchdown that put the Gales ahead 10-0 lead with 9:59 left in the opening half.

Carpenter was once again the all-purpose man for Lancaster, playing nearly every snap including lining up at quarterback, tailback and wide receiver on offense and playing defensive back the entire game.

Carpenter accounted for 140 total yards in the first half, going 2-of-4 passing for 47 yards and catching three balls for 67 yards and the touchdown in the first half.

Ryan Check took just three snaps at quarterback, bothered by a nagging leg injury that kept him out of practice most of the week.

Lancaster struggled to make anything happen between the tackles in the rushing game. Carpenter and Flowers were engulfed by the Lions' pass rush often enough to keep the Gales from maintaining an offensive rhythm.

"It was kind of tough, we've gotta be able to run the ball inside," Carpenter said. "Every week we've found a way to piece it together."

On Friday, the pieces fit together in the form of Flowers finding open receivers quickly and Carpenter utilizing his speed when given open space.



Lancaster Cobles Gales junior Nathan Carpenter fans off the Gahanna Lincoln Lions defense Friday night at Lancaster, L-KU photo by Abigail S. Fisher. Layers on the Lancaster Gales watch their team struggle against Gahanna Lincoln on Friday night. E-G photo by Abigail S. Fisher.

### KEYS TO THE GAME

- **Key Players:** Gahanna's Earl Cunningham had kickoff returns of 79 and 44 yards as well as a 93-yard punt return for a touchdown, all in the first half on Friday.
- **Key Strategy:** After Lancaster opened up a 10-0 lead, Gahanna scored 20 straight points behind 228 return yards from Cunningham to take firm control of the game.
- **Up Next:** Lancaster (2-3, 0-2 OOC-Ohio) hosts Grove City at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

### PHOTO GALLERIES

Lancaster vs. Gahanna Lincoln

### RELATED NEWS FROM THE WEB

Sports

Sports Etc.

Powered by Topix.net

### More H.S. Sports Headlines

Tigers defense dominates Panthers 📄

Lancaster can't make comeback against Gahanna 📄

Lions arena Week 4 loss with huge win against (Sports Illustrated)

Flowers was 9-of-16 passing for 127 yards, and showed flashes of becoming a consistent passer in the multiple-back shotgun offense.

"It helped us having Nolan back," Carpenter said. "Obviously he's a young kid and he's going to make some mistakes, but he got some quality reps in tonight."

Lancaster's defense played well enough to keep things close on Friday, forcing three turnovers and effectively limiting Gahanna's rushing attack throughout the game.

They held the Lions (3-2, 2-0 OVC/OVC) to two field-goals in the second half, the second of which made it 29-10 with 4:51 left in the game.

Check, who stuck to defined after taking snaps on the opening series at quarterback, re-entered the game with Lancaster set up with 3rd-and-goal from Gahanna's 3-yard line making 28-10.

Check completed a 9-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Shull, then took a handoff from Carpenter to score the two-point conversion and make it 28-18 with a little less than three minutes to go in the game.

The Blues defense forced a three-and-out from Gahanna's offense on their ensuing series, but a strong interception on a swing pass from Flowers to Carpenter by the Lions' Nick Broad ended Lancaster's hopes for a last-minute rally.

"Our kids have gotta rally around and stay healthy," Carpenter said. "After what I saw tonight, the kids fought hard and played hard. It's a five-week season, and I think we've got a chance to show our fans that we're better than what we are right now."

ADS BY PULSE 360

[Get Listed Here](#)

#### What's Your Credit Score?

The US average is 682. See yours online instantly for 30. Check now!

[www.CreditReportAmerica.com](http://www.CreditReportAmerica.com)

#### 2006 Anti-Aging Awards

Over 200 wrinkles creams were tested. Find out which look the award!

[AmericanAntiAgingAssociation.com](http://AmericanAntiAgingAssociation.com)

#### Obama Voter Registration

If You're Not Registered, You Can't Vote. Register to Vote Today!

[Ohio.VoteForChange.com](http://Ohio.VoteForChange.com)