



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER EVANS

FOUNDDED JETS: East Boston's Brandon Amodeo gets tackled by Whittier's Matt Asemota during yesterday's Division 4 Super Bowl at Bentley.

Wild 'Cats rally

Whittier wins as Sousa closes Eastie career

By MIKE DEL ROSSO

WALTHAM — Whittier completed a perfect season yesterday, grinding out a 14-12 win against East Boston in the Division 4A Super Bowl at Bentley University. Factor in two offenses

**WHITTIER 14
EAST BOSTON 12**

who put up huge numbers in the regular season and equally tough defenses scrapping over a rain-soaked line of scrimmage, and it's surprising the contest didn't end in a stalemate.

But Whittier found one chink in the Jets' armor: special teams.

"A third of the game is on offense, a third on defense and a third on special teams," Whittier coach Kevin Bradley said after his club finished 12-0.

"We're very proud of the way our specialty teams handled themselves today."

Three failed snaps of a slippery ball on the East Boston punt squad resulted in good field position for the Wildcats, the third of which Whittier started its drive on the Jets' 10-yard line.

"We wanted to go at the punter," Bradley said. Nate Allen barreled over the goal line and put Whittier on the board. A Paul Buccos two-point conversion gave the Wildcats the 8-6 lead at the close of the half.

Then came the second half when Buccos took the kickoff and returned it 78 yards to the Eastie 1.

"That was a big one by Buccos," said Bradley. Nick Ferreira punched it in to put the Wildcats up 14-6 with less than a minute gone in the second half.

Meanwhile, the Jets offense played flawless for much of the game. Troy Williams (11-for-16 passing, 224 yards, two TDs) opened the game with a 57-yard launch to Kevin Orellana (three grabs, 107 yards), then he completed the drive with a 2-yard TD run inside of the first two minutes.

Up 6-0, the Jets recovered a surprise onside kickoff and seemed poised for another score, but eventually fell to their fatal punting game. In the fourth quarter, the Jets tried to kick a field goal to pull closer, but again a muffed snap mixed the chance. Despite strong numbers from such players as Brandon Amodeo (3-70 receiving, 6-13 running, and double-digit tackles on defense), the Jets simply couldn't break through.

"I couldn't be prouder of them," said legendary Eastie coach John Sousa, who is retiring after completing his 15th year at the helm with a 10-2 mark.

"Today was a good life lesson for our kids. They did everything they had to to win, and at the end of the ball game our kids conducted themselves with class and pride." Said Bradley: "It was a great job by coach Sousa; it was a chess game. We just got the last move on checkmate."

DIV. 4 SUMMARY

WHITTIER 14, EAST BOSTON 12
EAST BOSTON (0-2) 6 0 6 0 — 14
WHITTIER (12-0) 0 8 6 0 — 12
EB — Troy Williams 2 run (run failed)
WH — Nate Allen 1 run (Paul Buccos run)
WH — Nick Ferreira 1 run (run failed)
EB — Williams 1 run (run failed)

Individual statistics

RUSHING — (EB) Brandon Amodeo 6-13; Troy Williams 7-16; Stanley Greene 4-23; Brandon Campbell 1(-1); (WH) Paul Buccos 7-11; Nick Ferreira 7-40; Donald Leighton 7-33; Dillon Ryan 4-14; Nate Allen 4-13; Steve Suerth 1-4.

PASSING (EB) Troy Williams 11-16-234; (WH) Dillon Ryan 0-2-0.

RECEIVING (EB) Kevin Orellana 3-107; Brandon Amodeo 2-70; Michael Locke 1-27; Stanley Greene 1-13.