

# Rockets season ends on the road in Mt. Pleasant

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Sports Writer

Mt. PLEASANT — It's no secret the Forrest Rockets (3-7, 1-4) had a tough season, the onslaught of injuries only adding to the hardship.

The Rockets' season ended Friday night in Mt. Pleasant, where they took on the Tigers (8-1, 5-0) in a region matchup and fell in a 41-0 shutout.

Although the Rockets had a few good plays scattered throughout the game, most of the night did not go their way, unable to execute in Tigers territory.

On the first drive of the game in a third down situation, freshman quarterback Ryan Hill completed a 45-yard pass to senior Chris Davis, putting Forrest on Mt. Pleasant grounds early on.

Two penalties and a sack gave possession to the Tigers.

Covering 50 yards in nine plays, Mt. Pleasant scored the only touchdown of the quarter, Austin Hicks diving in from the one-yard line.

The Rockets started the second quarter with a punt, and on the next play for the Tigers, Hicks went on an 82-yard trek to the opposite end of the field, bringing the score to 14-0 after the extra point kick from Jackson Collier.

It took only four plays before the Rockets punted the ball away again, catching somewhat of a lucky break when Darien Meza's lengthy run was called back due to a penalty against Mt. Pleasant, starting them on their own six-yard line.

But the Tigers clawed themselves out of a third down hole from their own one-yard line, with quarterback Nick Brown getting the first down on a 16-yard run.

Four plays later Brown connected with Meza on a 47-yard pass to put the Tigers in Rockets territory.

It was Hicks again who went on a 21-yard run to score his third touchdown of the evening. Collier's kick was good, and Mt. Pleasant found themselves with a strong lead of 21-0 with 5:03 left in the half.

Forrest just couldn't find their footing, turning the ball over on downs on the next possession, the Tigers taking over on the Rockets 29-yard line.

Within a handful of plays, Mt. Pleasant's Xavier Davidson crossed the goal line, putting the Tigers up 28-0 after Collier's kick.

The score held for the rest of the half.

In just over a minute



The Forrest Rockets break it down together for the last time.

Tribune Photos by Kacy Kincaid



Forrest head coach Eli Stephenson addresses the team after the game.

into the third quarter, Davidson found the end zone yet again. Collier remained on point, giving the Tigers a death grip on the lead, 35-0.

Another Rockets turnover resulted in a 29-yard touchdown run from Brown with 7:04 left in the third quarter. The extra point was no good, making the final score 41-0.

Hill, Levi Van Patten, and Antonio Marable came together in the quick-moving fourth quarter, including a Tigers fumble recovery by Senior Jordan Bishop, with a solid attempt to put some numbers on the board, but fell short.

"They kept fighting all season," Forrest head coach Eli Stephen-

son said.

"They never gave up, and that means a lot. That's one reason Chapel Hill is so special. We have great kids that love to come to work. I got to watch these seniors grow up and become great young men. That's the reason why I coach. They made coaching enjoyable for me, and I tried to teach them something besides football these years I've had them."

Forrest	0	0	0	0	—	0
Mt. Pleasant	7	21	13	0	—	41
First Quarter						
MP — Austin Hicks 1 run, (Jackson Collier kick), 3:53.						
Second Quarter						
MP — Hicks 82 run, (Collier kick), 11:29.						
MP — Hicks 21 run, (Collier kick), 5:03.						
MP — Xavier Davidson 2 run, (Collier kick), 1:46.						
Third Quarter						
MP — Davidson 4 run, (Collier kick), 10:42.						



Bryce Tankersley attempts to block the extra point kick.



Senior Levi Van Patten carries the ball for the Rockets.



Quarterback Ryan Hill makes the pass.