

Tigers' run ends in 2nd round of playoffs

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LEXINGTON — What's been a fantastic season for the Marshall County Tigers (10-2) came to a close on Friday night in the second-round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Lexington (9-3), the Region 6-AAAA champion, scored 14 fourth-quarter points to end the Tigers' season with a final score of 21-14.

Lexington's offense, though unconventional, proved incredibly successful on Friday night.

The Lexington Tigers' scheme boiled down to lengthy, sustained drives, moving the chains via the run and limiting Marshall County's possessions.

"First off, hats off to Lexington with some old school, grind it out football. To get a group of kids to buy into that style tells you the type of program coach Hollingsworth has. Big, physical football team with their downhill running game," Marshall County head coach Thomas Osteen said.

"That being said, I'm really proud of our kids for the way we fought

them all night and gave our selves chances. We knew we wouldn't have a lot of possessions offensively, so we had to make the most of them and didn't do that. The margin for error is so thin against a team like Lexington."

Lexington relied on the two-headed monster out of the backfield, featuring Isiah McClaine, who rushed for over 240 yards against Marshall County.

The first possession of the game drained nearly seven minutes off the clock before Marshall County even touched the ball.

While McClaine was able to push the Lexington line of scrimmage into Marshall County territory, a pair of fourth-down penalties forced the home team to punt.

Giving Lexington a taste of its own medicine, Tiger senior Demari Braden helped the Marshall County Tigers press to the Lexington 28-yard line where Wyatt Joyce attempted a 45-yard field goal.

The try, however, was blocked and Lexington eventually converted on that possession with



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Demari Braden picks up a block and scampers forward for a 37-yard gain against Lexington.

a Jakob Davis 14-yard run.

Marshall County responded in short order with a 39-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Silas Teat to Marcus O'Neal to even the score at 7-7 with 4:10 left.

That score held until mid-way through the third quarter.

After Marshall County forced a punt with 8:00 left, the Tigers found themselves deep in Lexington territory.

A 37-yard run by Braden breathed life into the possession and on second and goal from the six-yard line, Teat faked a handoff and darted for the end zone on a bootleg to give Marshall County a 14-7 lead with a quarter to play.

The continued barrage of McClaine pounding the Tiger defense continued to take its toll and the lead was

short lived as he was able to punch it in the end zone with 10:22 left in the fourth to knot

the game at 14 apiece.

Disaster struck Marshall County on its attempt to answer when

the Tigers fumbled the ball into Lexington's hands on the 25-yard

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Marcus O'Neal hauls in a 39-yard pass from Silas Teat to knot the at seven apiece after Wyatt Joyce's extra point.



Aja Jones makes a move and picks up a short gain for the Tigers.



Silas Teat stands tall in the pocket and keeps his eyes downfield.



Antomme Cowthorn finds a crease and scrambles for a short gain.



Jakavan Curry (6) and Grayson Miller (26) chase down and stop Jakob Davis for a loss.



A host of Marshall County defenders jump on the pile to bring down talented Lexington quarterback Isiah McClaine.