

# Wolves rout Vikings to post first victory

**Patrick Stoneberg**  
Sports Editor

The Niles West Wolves football team bounced back from their 0-2 start of the 2006 season by defeating cross-town and district rival Niles North Vikings 43-7 last Friday night.

Not only was it the first victory of the season for the Wolves, but it marked the first win of Curtis Tate's head coaching career as well. While celebrating the fact that he garnered his first victory, Tate added that he is in no way content with one victory.

"It felt good to get our first win, but I'm not going to hang my hat on that one win. We want to win games that we 'aren't supposed' to win. The big ones are the most important," Tate said. "This was no different from any other game; the most important thing was that we performed well. We go into every game to win."

The '06 offense looked like the Wolves "O" of the Mendenhall era, scoring at will, after failing to score more than 20 points in either of their previous two games. Although beginning the game slowly with a three-and-out, the Wolves followed that series with an 80-yard first down pass from senior quarterback Mike Anderson to senior wide receiver Brad Hohns. The drive eventually finished for six points with senior WR Lenny Khizickia hauling in another pass from Anderson, who explained the outburst.

"The past three games, including tonight, we happen to get off to slow starts. We need our offense to stay on the field for as long as possible to give our defense a breather. We need to get first downs from our first drive to our last," he said.

The Wolves were led offensively by senior RB Mike Galambos who racked up 205 total yards, while reaching the end zone four times. Anderson also produced for the Wolves in the passing game finishing 7-9 passing with three touchdowns and a career high in passing yards with 275.



Wolves and Vikings struggle to dominate the line of scrimmage.  
Photo by Zander Macsai

Tate termed the victory "a combined team effort. Some players might have outshined others because each teammate was doing what they were supposed to do. For example, on the screen pass on which Galambos scored, the only reason that he scored was because of the play fake by Anderson and two key blocks downfield."

Unlike past years the '06 Wolves have been able to rely on their defense this season, which held the Vikings to seven points. The defensive leaders for the night were senior defensive back German Suncin who led the team with five solo tackles, and Khizickia, playing both ways at WR and DB, who totaled four solo tackles, three assists and an interception. The Wolves' defensive unit has held its opponents to an average of 19 points a game, a respectable but not tolerable number, says senior linebacker Dan Kleppin.

"Our defense played pretty well tonight," Kleppin said. "I think we gave up too many total yards to them, but we had a goose egg up there until late in the fourth quarter. Unfortunately we couldn't keep them from scoring the whole game, but we know there is a lot of things we can improve on."

The Wolves will begin that quest for improvement at Highland Park Friday night at 7 p.m.