

COMMANDERS SUFFER 1ST LOSS

HARTSVILLE -- Friendship Christian was handed a 23-7 loss Friday by a physical Trousdale County team at John Kerr Field in a Region 4A clash.

The Commanders only enjoyed their number one ranking in the state for a few days dropping their first game of the year to stand at 6-1.

FCS failed to sustain offensive drives and allowed the Yellow Jackets too many opportunities early that cost them a shot at the lead and more importantly -- momentum.

"They pounded the ball on the ground and we couldn't get a drive going. We missed a great opportunity to score in the first half and let it slip away," FCS head coach John McNeal said.

Friendship had a decent offensive drive on their opening possession moving the ball to mid-field but punted the ball away to Trousdale who started on their own 30 yard line.

A few plays later, Yellow Jacket Tacola Seay blasted up the middle and rumbled 56 yards and Trousdale never looked back. Seay finished the night with 145 yards on the ground and a pair of touchdowns.

Friendship's air attack struggled as senior QB Lee Maasen never had time in the pocket to get a good look down field. A relentless TCHS pass rush forced Maasen out of the pocket and had him running for his life a good part of the night.

Maasen rushed for 104 yards on 18 carries and Dekolas Reeves added 21 yards on seven attempts as senior back John Markham was limited to three touches for a negative five yards on the night.

Friendship has little time to sulk as the Commanders travel to Watertown (5-1) next Friday to face the Purple Tigers in another key Region 4A matchup.