

White leads Amityville rally past Glenn

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The cardiac kids, the comeback kids . . . the number of adjectives that can be used to describe the Amityville football team would defy most any thesaurus.

Trailing by nine with just over four minutes to go, things weren't looking good for the Warriors. But there was no panic on the Amityville sideline.

And sophomore wide receiver Willie White proved there was no reason to panic.

White caught two touchdown passes in the final 4:01 to lift Amityville to a 17-11 win over top seed Glenn in the Suffolk Division IV championship game at Stony Brook's LaValle Stadium last night.

Amityville will face Seaford in the Class IV title game today (noon) at Hofstra. It's Amityville's second Division IV championship in the last three years.

White's second touchdown catch - the game-winner - was a 39-yard haul from Gavin Kretz with 2:20 left that gave Amityville a 15-11 lead. Darien Croft ran in the two-point conversion to provide the final margin.

But that wasn't even the most important score. White's first scoring play, a 60-yard catch, was on a halfback option from Kevin Willis.

Willis missed last week's win over Mount Sinai in the semifinal with a shoulder injury, so White wasn't sure what Willis was going to do.

"We'd been running it all week in practice, but I thought he was going to run with it," White said. "This time he happened to throw it."

The play came at the right time for the third-seeded Warriors (9-2), whose offense hadn't done much of anything. "We definitely needed something," Willis said. "If he wasn't open I was going to run it."

Amityville coach Chris Taylor sensed his team, which produced just 92 yards of total offense in the first half, needed a boost.

"We have plays like that for certain situations," Taylor said. "We just needed to get something going and take a chance. It got us back in the game. If we didn't score there, we weren't going to win."

White's first scoring play was set up by the Amityville defense, which forced a fumble on Glenn's previous possession. "We keep it exciting don't we?," Taylor said.

The first half was a true test of attrition as neither offense could get on track. Amityville had first crack and drove down to the Glenn 18 midway through the first quarter. But a delay-of-game penalty pushed the Warriors back the 22 and Glenn took over on downs.

Glenn (10-1) followed that with a 10-play drive of its own, but was turned away after an A.J. Watlington interception inside the 10.

The Warriors took a 2-0 lead after a Glenn punt attempt was snapped over the head of its punter and kicked out of bounds.

Amityville held the lead until Austin Cohen capped a 70-yard drive with a 14-yard scoring run and two-point conversion with 8:03 left in the third quarter and gave Glenn an 8-2 lead. Reyes Guevara extended the lead to 11-2 on a 19-yard field goal with 8:28 left in game.