

**FLAG FOOTBALL**

# Relentless Roaders

Virgilio, Brunswick aggressive in shutout of Titans

■ **Brunswick 6, Tusc. 0**

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BRUNSWICK – When she's on a wrestling mat, Brunswick sophomore Kate Virgilio's coaches tell her to constantly stay aggressive.

That advice helped her win a girls state title at 115 pounds as a freshman. And it echoed in her mind in an entirely different context on Monday.

Lined up as the rusher on fourth down, Virgilio didn't hesitate to speed into Tuscarora flag football's backfield, looking to make one final stop. She stayed on the attack and pulled the flag, picking up the sack that sealed the Railroaders' 6-0 home win over the Titans, their first victory of the season.

"I stayed hungry. I was there," Virgilio said.

That was the case on Tuscarora's final possession.

Virgilio also recorded a first-down sack and helped the Titans lose yardage on another play.

"Run as hard as you can," Virgilio said. "If you get hit, you get hit."

That fearless mindset combined with elite conditioning – she also runs cross-country – has made Virgilio an every-down player for Brunswick (1-1) a year

(See **RAILROADERS B2**)



Staff photo by Katina Zentz

**Brunswick's Sienna Russo runs to score a touchdown against Tuscarora at Brunswick High School on Monday. The Railroaders defeated the Titans 6-0. Russo scored the only touchdown of the game.**

## Aggressive Railroaders beat Titans

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after she rarely saw snaps outside of garbage time.

She barely came off the field against Tuscarora (0-2), also leading the Roaders' rushing attack out of the backfield.

"She's just an athlete," second-year Brunswick coach William Dick said. "She's fast, she's quick and she's smart, which just gives her the ability to make smart decisions, being in the right place at the right time and doing what she's supposed to do."

Virgilio is among a slew of young Roaders to take vast leaps from a year ago.

The majority of Brunswick's starters are underclassmen, including freshman quarterback Addison Shackleford. She's helped the Roaders diversify their offense, running and passing in near-equal numbers.

She completed seven

passes for 128 yards Monday, also carrying 13 times for 23 yards.

"For it being her first year, the first two games so far have gone astronomically well," Dick said. "She's done a good job of educating herself and making herself coachable, and I think that has led to where we are right now."

Shackleford connected with junior wide receiver Sienna Russo for a 31-yard touchdown on fourth down with 15.8 seconds left in the first half, the Roaders' first points of the season. Junior cornerback Ava Higgins set up that drive with a red-zone interception, ending the Titans' lone scoring threat.

It's positive momentum a week after losing 27-0 to Frederick High. The next three games don't get easier, as Brunswick faces Frederick County powers Urbana and Linganore along with

defending state runner-up Boonsboro.

"We've got some big games coming up," Virgilio said. "We're gonna take some losses. We came into the season knowing that, especially with half our roster being freshmen, but we work hard and we stay hungry."

"Playing against these bigger schools definitely gives us a purpose and a reason to stay hungry, because if we were just winning everything, why would we even be out there? We want to be there to win it."

Tuscarora junior quarterback Abena Adu threw for 34 yards and rushed for 44 more before leaving with an injury at halftime. Freshman backup Brynn Bradshaw completed four passes for 48 yards. Senior wide receiver Cahya Jefferson caught three passes for 61 yards.