



September 7, 2022

By Dennis Garcia
SportsTone.net

CLIMAX - One of the most difficult scenarios a high school football team must adapt to is finding chemistry with a new quarterback. Returning quarterbacks already have a relationship with returning players and are well versed with how things are handled.

At Providence Grove High School, the Patriots are undergoing a change at quarterback for the first time since 2018, but senior Andrew Canter has stepped in and looks as if he's held that position for years.

Canter and the Patriots are off to a 3-0 start this new season with the senior signal-caller among the statistical and off-field leaders.

"Andrew has stepped in and is doing a great job," said PG head coach Calvin Brown as he prepared his team for a Friday night game at Asheboro High School. "He loves the atmosphere and the competition. The moment is not too big for him."

Prior to the season, Brown had three candidates for his starting QB position after the graduation of four-year star Luke Thomas. Canter was the backup last year, while senior Chase Whitaker and sophomore Brady Collins were certainly in the mix. But with Whitaker and Collins earning starting spots on the defense, Brown said it would benefit the team greatly if Canter could shine at the quarterback position.

He has.

With wins of 51-0 over Jordan-Matthews, 42-0 over Southern Guilford and 32-14 over East Davidson, Canter has given the Patriots' stout defense more offense than needed. Through three games, Canter is 20 of 31 for 339 yards and five touchdowns.

"He's playing well and that really helps us keep those other two fresh on defense," Brown said. "And it helps that he has some really good players around him."

With seniors Zane Cheek and Zander Cheek leading the running attack and Joe Coltrane and Lemuel Coltrane leading the receiving corps, the Patriots have rolled early on.

"(Canter) throws it very well, but he understands the game and understands where his receivers need to be," Brown said. "We really haven't had to change as much as I anticipated because Andrew has handled it so well. It's just like a normal year with Luke."

Canter said he feels confident as the Patriots approach the conference season.

"The first game I felt pretty nervous, but the first play went for 40 yards," Canter said. "I feel very confident with my reads and all of that. My offensive line is doing a good job and so are the running backs and receivers."

Brown said Canter is going to have to continue to get better as well as every Patriots player.

"We just have to find a way to get over that hump," Brown said. "Our schedule is going to get a lot tougher. Some teams we're playing are much improved."

With Canter and the other veteran players in the spotlight, the Patriots will certainly be ready.