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RANDLEMAN - Every high school coach strives for his team to improve on a weekly basis. Sometimes that improvement is hard to see. Sometimes it's not.

It's easy to see the Randleman Tigers varsity football team is showing improvement nearly each and every week.

The Tigers proved once again last week that they are a team that can do a lot of damage with a 30-14 victory over Providence Grove. The victory was the second straight in conference play for RHS, which gets another stiff test Friday night against Southwestern Randolph. The Tigers (2-0, 5-2) are the only 2-A team that is 2-0 in conference play with the Cougars and Patriots 1-1 and Wheatmore and Trinity 0-2. Eastern Randolph, a 1-A team, is also 2-0 in league action.

"It started with the culture," RHS coach Shane Timmons said of the turnaround from last season when RHS won a total of four games. "We committed and told them there was a train coming and if you're not on it, you're going to get run over. It's hard work in the weight room and culture. The way we finished last year left a horrible taste in our mouths."

RHS lost four of its final five games, including a first-round playoff loss to Reidsville. The Tigers were outscored 95-7 in their final games.

"The guys worked really hard starting in December, worked through track season and then the summer and into August," Timmons said. "There have been some hiccups, but it's been a pleasure to coach these guys."

RHS won three of its first four non-conference games before dropping a tough, non-league battle with North Stanly. The PAC season began with a 49-0 win over Wheatmore and then the Tigers pulled what most would say was an upset with its victory over Providence Grove. PG and ER were expected to be the top two teams in the league this year, but the Tigers, along with the Cougars, are proving they belong in that conversation as well.

"We were young and we were making a lot of jayvee mistakes early on," Timmons said. "You want to see them build to that consistency. It's really been where you want your best practice



Tigers' coach Shane Timmons in a pregame discussion with an official. Photo courtesy of PJ Ward-Brown Photography.

to be in week seven, then week eight and then week nine. Everyone is working to do their one-eleventh on the field."

That was evident last week with the win over PG. "We knew it was a big game," Timmons said. "It's a huge win for our program because they have had a lot of success. "We knew it was the kind of game where our stuff worked or it didn't."

Senior Christian Long has done a remarkable job of leading the offense as the senior signal-caller is 71 of 127 for 945 yards and nine touchdowns in the passing department. He has thrown just three interceptions. Long has also rushed for 265 yards.

"It always starts with the quarterback and his decision ability and we have good linemen up front," Timmons said. "I always say yards are yards and it doesn't matter if you get them with your feet or through the air."



Quarterback Christian Long. Photo courtesy of PJ Ward-Brown Photography.



Receiver Tyshaun Goldston. Photo courtesy of PJ Ward-Brown Photography.

Bruising running back Amarion Moton has proven hard to tackle as he has recorded 616 yards and nine touchdowns to lead a rushing attack that also includes junior Edison Hernandez.

Tyshaun Goldston has hauled in 34 passes for nearly 600 yards with six touchdown receptions. Goldston, who also returns kickoffs and punts, is averaging more than 116 yards of total offense per game.

Cam Norton, Greg Price and Tanner Gneiting lead the defense, while Chase Farlow has already recorded four interceptions.

They will be tested against a SWR team that has scored 40 points or more in four games.

"They are right there with everyone," Timmons said.

"They are explosive and we have to be ready."

You can bet they will be.