

# THE PLAIN DEALER

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## Drake's 98-yard return highlights East's win

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BEREA, Ohio – Fueled by a 28-point second quarter, the East beat the West 34-22 Friday in the Cuyahoga County East-West All-Star football game at Baldwin Wallace.

It was the fourth consecutive victory for the East.

Lutheran East's Robert Drake was the East MVP after setting an

all-star game record with a 98-yard kickoff return. Rocky River quarterback Matt Lowry was the West MVP.

Here are five plays you should've seen at the 43rd annual event:

1. Drake gone in a flash

The final three minutes of the first half featured four touchdowns, but none were as explosive as Drake's 98-yard kickoff return. The speedster made it through the first

wave of tacklers near his own 25-yard line, and then he was gone.

"The first kickoff, they didn't kick it to me. I just knew the first time they kicked it to me I was going to score," said Drake. "I just took the ball up, saw the big hole and took it."

Drake, who will play at Lake Erie College next season, almost did it again in the fourth quarter, but had to set-

tle for a 75-yard return to the West 20.

He was tripped up a bit near midfield and caught from behind. A rare thing for Drake.

"All my kick returns last season, nobody caught me from behind," said Drake.

2. The Leverette bounce  
The East trailed 8-0 midway through the second quarter, and was having little success on

offense when Orange quarterback Stephen Borgman found John Adams' Jordan Leverette on a curl route about 10 yards downfield.

Leverette was hit hard as the ball arrived, but absorbed the contact, collected himself, then outraced everyone to the far corner of the end zone for the East's first score.

Leverette finished with two catches for 69 yards, 36 of which came on the touchdown.

### 3. The escape plan

On second-and-goal at the East 9-yard line early in the fourth quarter, Lowry looked like he was about to take a sack after the pocket broke down. But he somehow escaped tacklers, found some space on the left and threw a rope to St. Edward's Kyle Hegedus.

Hegedus, not used much as a receiver for the state champion Eagles last season, caught the pass off his feet, was flipped by a tackler and landed on his head on the goal line, drawing the West within six, 28-22.

"Actually, I was going to

run it, but (a defender) grabbed on my jersey," said Lowry. "I looked at (Hegedus) and he had his hands in the air like, 'Oh God, he just got sacked.' He was looking the other way. But I threw the ball and he made an unbelievable catch and thankfully didn't break his neck."

Hegedus had four catches for 44 yards. Lowry finished 6-of-10 passing for 56 yards, and had a team-high 48 yards rushing on eight carries. He almost scored on a scramble in the first quarter but fumbled at the 1-yard line.

### 4. The option to score

Holy Name quarterback Christian Klink played the second quarter for the West, and had a strong showing. He was 4-of-8 passing for 117 yards and a touchdown by the time he threw what looked to be a screen to Strongsville's Nick Hoerig with less than two minutes left in the first half.

But Hoerig didn't run with it. He turned and threw a high-arcing pass to Bay's Rex Sunahara, who was wide open inside the 5-yard line. The score put the

West back on top, 15-14, setting the stage for Drake's kickoff return.

Klink finished 7 of 14 for 136 yards and a touchdown and might've been the East MVP if not for a pair of interceptions.

### 5. Pick-six to close the door

With five minutes to play, the West picked up a fourth-and-1 at its own 25 and seemed to have some momentum, trailing only 28-22.

But on the next play, Klink threw long down the sideline and Garfield Heights' Jameer Miller picked him off.

And he wasn't done.

Miller stopped on a dime and reversed direction, picking up a couple of good blocks to find the end zone. The 61-yard score put the East in command, 34-22, with 4:31 left in the game.

"I knew they were going to throw it to No. 80 (Padua's Nick Medaglia). Once I saw the ball in the air I knew I had to break on it. So I broke on it and took it back to the house," said Miller, a Findlay recruit who missed much of last season with a leg injury.

"This was like my best game because I'm 100 percent healthy."

2015 Cuyahoga County East-West All-Star game

At Baldwin-Wallace

West 2 13 0 7 - 22

West 0 28 0 6 - 34

Scoring

First quarter

West: Kantor safety

Second quarter

West: Medaglia 31 pass from Klink (kick failed)

East: Leverette 36 pass from Borgman (Hoffman kick)

East: Marshall 26 pass from Borgman (Hoffman kick)

West: Sunahara 31 pass from Hoerig (Griffith kick)

East: Drake 98 kickoff return (Hoffman kick)

East: Balasz 6 run (Hoffman kick)

Fourth quarter

West: Hegedus 9 pass from Lowry (Griffith kick)

East: Miller 61 interception return (Hoffman kick) ■



