

# Sports

The Journal News

Sunday, October 25, 1998

## Gaels remain alive

Iona Prep remains in playoff hunt with 39-12 victory

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The Journal News

**NEW ROCHELLE** — After losing two consecutive games on the road, Iona Prep needed to win at home yesterday in order to keep its playoff hopes alive. Beating Holy Trinity of Hicksville 39-12 not only kept those hopes afloat, but also gave the Gaels a much-needed injection of confidence.

"I needed this game to get back in the rhythm," tailback Reuben Sullins said.

After missing two games because of an injured right ankle and hamstring, he played in last week's road loss, but didn't feel back in form until yesterday. Sullins made up for the lost time, darting up and down the field and around the Titans' confounded defense — for 235 yards on 16 carries and three touchdowns. So far this season, he has rushed for 825 yards.

"Reuben makes a huge difference for our offense," coach Jeff Napolitano said. "We feel that he's the best (running back) in the county."

Also coming up strong on the offense was Khalid Rice, who ran for 92 yards, including an 85-yard kickoff return at the start of the second half for a touchdown that gave Iona Prep a 38-6 lead.

The Gaels defense, especially Ciaran Crampton and Steve Evans, frustrated the Titans for much of the day, slamming bodies and only allowing Holy Trinity to make two significant drives, both of which resulted in touchdowns scored by running back Ben Plaia.

Meanwhile, Iona Prep's offensive line dominated and allowed the Gaels — especially Sullins — to have a relatively clear path up and down the field.

"I feel like our offensive line overpowered them, just blew them off the ball," Evans said.

That certainly did happen, but Sullins had to add some praise for Holy Trinity's defense.

"Their defense was strong. I felt it," Sullins said.

He'll probably be feeling a lot more next weekend when the Gaels, ranked eighth in the CHSFL standings, host top-ranked Chaminade.

"We knew that we needed to win this game, both for the playoffs down the road and we also needed a good game to be ready for Chaminade," Napolitano said.

Evans echoed his coach's sentiments.

"We've got to get prepared and this really boosted our confidence for next week," he said.