



## Flurry in final seconds lifts Beverly over Danvers

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— BEVERLY — When Danvers football linemen Jeff Turner and Zach Ryan came up and stuffed Rashad Sims for a 5-yard loss on 4th-and-4 with 3:43 to play Saturday afternoon, it appeared the Beverly High football team had exhausted its final chance for a comeback victory.

But in this case, appearances certainly were deceiving.

The Panthers made a terrific three-and-out defensive stand to get the ball back with less than two minutes to go, then moved downfield 73 yards in 10 plays as quarterback Mark Hannable plunged into the end zone from two yards out with 17 seconds to play. That decisive touchdown gave the hosts a riveting 21-15 triumph over Danvers High Saturday at Hurd Stadium. One play before Hannable's TD, he had hooked up with receiver Steve Dubois along the right sideline for a 17-yard gain to place the ball at the Falcons' 2-yard line. Danvers believed it had two defenders with hands on the football and had knocked the ball loose as Dubois was knocked out of bounds, but it was ruled a catch. One play later, Hannable crashed in for the winning score.

"This one was exhausting," said Beverly head coach Dan Bauer with a deep sigh, after watching his team score 15 fourth quarter points to quietly improve their record this fall to 5-1.

"This was a big-time gut check for us, and we kept our poise and made big plays when we needed them most."

Truer words were never spoken. After playing lethargically against a charged up Danvers team for much of the first half, Beverly looked like a different team over the final 22 minutes as Sims (25 rushes, game-high 189 yards, 2 TDs) gave his team its first lead at 14-9 with a 2-yard score. That rush came with 8:50 remaining.

But Danvers — which certainly deserved a much better fate on Saturday — was undaunted, and re-took the lead less than three minutes later. Eric Burgos (career-high 134 yards, 2 TDs) took a pitch to the left side, found a seam and burst through it untouched from 37 yards out as Hurd Stadium fell silent with the Falcons ahead, 15-14.

"I thought we had them," lamented Danvers head coach John Sullivan, whose 1-5 team could likely be 3-3 or even 4-2 if not for turnovers and, well, just not catching many breaks. "The thing I was most afraid of was them wearing us down in the second half, but our kids displayed a lot of courage and determination.

"The difficult now is picking this team up. We played so well, and to have nothing to show for it is tough. But we have to stay positive."

Sims also had a 68-yard scoring run for Beverly earlier in the game, aided by some terrific downfield blocking by captain Peter Kallas and end Ben Comeau. Linebacker Nick Kozlowski (sack), and defensive end Theritchnide Roc were other defensive standouts, while Jamie Wolkwiewicz had a game-ending sack.

For Danvers, Nick Pellino blasted a 23-yard field goal while Kell Falite, had a strong defensive game and Steven Hennessey picked off a pass.

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