

It has been a quick change of pace for the Pioneers. After a 2-0 start, the Pioneers were met with a tough challenge in Covington Catholic, which was proven to be far too much for Simon Kenton. Resulting in a 62-15 loss, the Pioneers failed to keep the game close after a first quarter that consisted of multiple turnovers for both teams. Just when the door had opened ever-so-slightly for an upset, Cash Harney and the Colonel offense woke up and rose to the occasion. Two quick scores in the second quarter seemed to be a knockout punch for the Pioneers, as Covington Catholic began to pour it on, riding their momentum to a blowout victory.

—But everyone gets punched in the mouth at some point, right? The unforgiving 2025 schedule is full of tough opponents, and it would seem that the Pioneers are in the midst of a tough stretch. Last night, Simon Kenton headed to Fort Mitchell for a matchup with the 18-time State Champion Beechwood Tigers, and they wasted no time getting comfortable. Seemingly, before you could blink, the Tigers had jumped out to a 14-0 lead. Despite several strong tackles for loss from Senior Tucker Ober, among others, it was the stellar play from Beechwood Quarterback Emmett Queen that made the difference. A late first-half drive for Simon Kenton showed flashes of a fight from the Pioneers, but clock management forced the offense to settle for a field goal, down 17-0. A low snap that was mishandled led to a blocked kick, and was then recovered by Beechwood and returned for a touchdown that slammed the door shut on any momentum for Simon Kenton heading into halftime.

The second half was more of the same, in spite of gutsy fourth-down runs by Sophomore Jason Rabe at the rarely-used fullback position. A third-quarter touchdown by Senior running back Jordan Pendleton served as a glimpse of hope for the Pioneers, just before a failed two-point conversion attempt. As the points piled on for the Tigers, the Pioneers had bit off more than they could chew, ending in a 45-6 loss.

Despite what appears to be growing pains for the Simon Kenton, and trouble getting used to the playcalling of the coaching staff under Joe Wynn, the Pioneers look to right the ship and get back to over .500 against Conner next Friday, September 19th. The 2-0 start brings optimism; back-to-back losses raise questions- heading into the latter part of the season, can Simon Kenton find a true identity as they continue to face high-caliber teams?