

Holy Cross' Reed Gravolet kicks 35-yard field goal to clinch 16-13 win over rival Jesuit

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Holy Cross' Reed Gravolet kicks his second of three field goals of the night at the football game between Jesuit and Holy Cross Friday, Oct. 11, 2013, at Tad Gormley Stadium. (Photo by Dinah Rogers, NOLA.com / The Times-Picayune)

Dinah Rogers, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Holy Cross edged Jesuit Friday night.

By Kelly Morris, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
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Reed Gravolet was Holy Cross' backup kicker last season.

He's a hero now thanks to one special night at Tad Gormley Stadium.

The junior nailed a 35-yard field goal with 2 seconds left to help Holy Cross top archrival Jesuit 16-13 Friday and keep its record perfect.

It's the Tigers' first win over Jesuit in five years. Jesuit entered the state's longest rivalry winning the last five games and eight of the last 10. Jesuit still leads the overall series 54-38-1, but on this night — the 94th meeting — Holy Cross (6-0, 1-0) did all the celebrating.

"We're finally bringing the trophy home, and we're planning on keeping it a few more years," said Gravolet, who also made kicks of 25 yards and 24 yards in the game.

On his final kick, he had to kick it twice. Jesuit Coach Wayne Keiser called a time out to try to ice him.

It didn't work.

"It always comes down to this when we play Jesuit," Holy Cross Coach Barry Wilson said. "We knew it was going to be a tough game, but Reed Gravolet is fantastic. He's better than we ever anticipated. He never gets rattled."

Jesuit's defense nearly stole the show. The Blue Jays held the usually high-scoring Tigers to 331 total yards and 48 yards on the ground.

Running back Todd Spriggins, who returned to the lineup after being sidelined last week with a shoulder injury, ran it just enough to get Gravolet in range.

The senior ran 12 yards on a draw play to move the ball to the Jesuit 11. Two plays later, a false start penalty, the Tigers' ninth penalty in the game, moved it back to the 18.

"I told these guys to keep pushing and pushing," said senior quarterback James Tabary, fighting back tears. "This is the greatest feeling in the world."

"We really needed the draw play. We were going to run a screen on the outside, but they kept jumping and jumping. We tried to get the outside linebacker to go out, and we ran it right underneath him."

The play made Gravelot particularly happy. He missed a 45-yard field goal in the jamboree against Easton, but he said he's grown up plenty since then.

Jesuit (3-3, 0-1) tied the game at 13 with 2:34 left in regulation. Michael McMahon ended a nine-play drive with a 1-yard run off the left tackle. The Blue Jays rallied with many of their starters out with injury. Sam Martin broke his leg last week and was one of many on the sideline on crutches.

Holy Cross-Jesuit game stats

"This is a physical game played by physical people," Keiser said. "The thing about the Catholic League is you better have your twos ready to go because you ain't making it through this thing unscathed.

"Any loss hurts, but I'm proud of how our kids played."

Holy Cross had a slow start in the game but responded with 13 straight points after falling behind 3-0. The Tigers led 13-3 at halftime.



Holy Cross wide receiver Michael Chigbu pulls down an 87-yard pass for a TD against Jesuit. (Dinah Rogers, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)

To go up 3-0, the Blue Jays ended a nine-play, 75-yard drive with Crew Jacobs' 30-yard field goal.

Holy Cross countered with its own 25-yard field goal on a 19-play drive. The Tigers went an impressive 3-for-4 on third downs on the drive. Then, on fourth-and-2 on Jesuit's 26, Tabary found Darius Rodrique for a 6-yard pass to extend the drive.

Tabary, who finished with 283 yards passing, was only warming up. Michael Chigbu connected with Tabary on two over-the-shoulder receptions.

Chigbu's first completion in the second quarter — a 45-yarder — set up Holy Cross' second field goal. Four plays after Chigbu's catch, Gravolet kicked a 25-yard field goal to give the Tigers their first lead at 6-3.

The Tigers needed only one play to extend the lead. Tabary found Chigbu open on an 86-yard pass with seven minutes left in the first half. He finished the game with a team-high 165 yards receiving on seven catches. Holy Cross' defense forced two turnovers, but the Tigers didn't turn either of them into points.

Holy Cross entered the game with a No. 7 state ranking in Class 5A and **a No. 3 ranking among New Orleans Metro Area large schools.**

"I believe in Reed 100 percent," Tabary said. "I'm so happy. This is a family."

Holy Cross honored its 1963 state championship team at halftime. The Tigers topped Jesuit that year 14-6.

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Jesuit (3-3-0) 13 Holy Cross (6-0-0) 16

Tad Gormley Stadium, New Orleans, LA

Jesuit @ Holy Cross					
Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	F
Jesuit	3	0	3	7	13

Holy Cross	3	10	0	3	16
1st Quarter					
J-Crew Jacobs 30 FG					
H-Reed Gravolet 25 FG					
2nd Quarter					
H-Gravolet 24 FG					
H-Michael Chigbu 86 pass from James Tabary (Gravolet kick)					
3rd Quarter					
J-Jacobs 20 FG					
4th Quarter					
J-Michael McHahon 1 run (Jacobs kick)					
H-Gravolet 35 FG					

Player Stats

Jesuit - Passing

Player	CMP	ATT	YDS	INT
Trey Laforge	17	28	166	
Peter Hontas	0	1	0	1

Player Stats

Jesuit - Receiving

Player	REC	YDS	AVG
Malcolm Ben	2	48	24.0
Charles Jackson	3	42	14.0
Kalija Lipscomb	7	70	10.0
Quentin Marks	1	12	12.0
Thomas Marks	2	29	14.5
Foster Moreau	1	5	5.0
Daron Wilford	1	11	11.0

Player Stats

Jesuit - Rushing

Player	ATT	AVG	YDS
Trey Laforge	1	-9.0	-9
Malcolm Ben	3	-1.3	-4
Chris Mills	3	0.0	0
Michael McMahon	4	0.2	1
Alex Rabalais	1	0.0	0
Charles Jackson	10	7.5	75
Kalija Lipscomb	1	7.0	7

Player Stats

Holy Cross - Offensive

Player	TOT_PTS
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Michael Chigbu	6
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Player Stats

Holy Cross - Passing

Player	CMP	ATT	YDS	TD
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James Tabary	22	36	283	1
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Player Stats

Holy Cross - Receiving

Player	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
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Tre Turner	1	8	8.0	
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Jason Abide	5	33	6.6	
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Michael Chigbu	7	165	23.6	1
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Jerry Cook	5	42	8.4	
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Darius Rodrigue	4	25	6.2	
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Player Stats

Holy Cross - Rushing

Player	ATT	AVG	YDS
James Tabary	3	1.3	4
Todd Spriggins	17	2.0	34
Tre Turner	6	2.0	12
Jason Abide	1	-2.0	-2