

# Askew fills in well for Franzer at QB against Horsemen

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Successful football seasons can be defined by moments, even individual performances and single plays. Saturday night in Lexington Greyhounds running back Rayshawn Askew lent a hand in creating one of those moments that his teammates, Ohio Valley coaches and the club's faithful fans may look back on as some of the most important plays from scrimmage their team took all season.

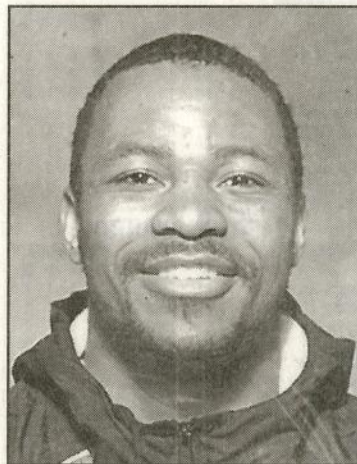
With the Hounds in a dogfight with conference rival Lexington the last thing head coach Mark Bonar needed was to have quarterback Shane Franzer badly turn an ankle on the game's second series. You see Ohio Valley rolls the dice nearly every week. They unlike most teams in the NIFL don't dress a true quarterback to serve as a reserve for Franzer. In the past the team has gotten by with a wide receiver or a defensive back that could fill the position on a temporary basis. In that regard the Greyhounds have been lucky, no fill-in quarterback has ever had to play the spot in a significant game. That all changed versus the Horsemen.

"It wasn't a totally spur of the moment thing," said Bonar. "Angel (Estrada) is usually our backup quarterback but when he went to try out for the Indiana Firebirds a while back we worked a little with Rayshawn at quarterback."

So imagine you are Askew, you are having by far your best game of the season. All of the sudden what was a Greyhounds rushing attack searching for consistency looks like the power running game of the past and it is the veteran Askew leading the charge. With a hobbled Franzer Coach Bonar decides with a 20-7 lead during the intermission that his starting running back would see some time at quarterback to change the pace of the game.

"With Shane (Franzer) hurt, it took away his ability to run, and they knew that we were going to run the football, they were loading up at the line and we needed something to keep Lexington honest."

Inserted in the second half on



ASKEW

"The first thing I had a problem with was trying to find a play clock, once I was able to find that it was pretty easy," said Askew. "I think Coach Bonar is a great coach, when he told me at the half that I was going to play some quarterback I was confident, he knows what is best for this football team."

The position switch wasn't a whole new world for the Cincinnati native, he had played the position as a youngster before being moved to running back.

"My mother always tells me that she thinks I should have played quarterback and that I would have been good there," said Askew. "I sometimes think she says that so I wouldn't have to take all the hits that I do as a running back."

For now the former Winnipeg Blue Bomber is just as happy to return the familiar spot at halfback in the Greyhounds backfield where it appears the team's running game is primed to take off. The team's running back situation has gotten a little thinner with the release of Quentin Cradle which should mean more carries for Askew and Rego.

"We have the best offensive line in the NIFL and it keeps getting better," noted Askew. "Sometimes when you have a lot of different players running the ball and they have different styles a rushing game can struggle, but I think we are turning things around and when I can do what it takes to do something good for the team it is such a great feeling."

GREYHOUND TRACKS