



CLASS M

DANIEL HAND 57

ROCKVILLE 20

By GERRY deSIMAS, Jr.
Collinsville Press.com

NEW BRITAIN, Dec. 9, 2023 – Senior running back Aidan Dolan ran for a game-high 269 yards and four touchdowns to lead No. 1 Daniel Hand to a 57-20 win over Rockville in Saturday's Class M championship game at Central Connecticut State's Arute Field.

Dolan exceeded 2,000 yards rushing for the season in the victory and threw his first touchdown pass as the Tigers won the 14th state championship in school history and their first since 2018.



Dolan completed a 43-yard touchdown pass to Owen Preskar in the fourth quarter, the first of his career. With 57 points, Hand scored the most points in a CIAC championship game, breaking their previous best mark of 54 against Maloney in 2018.

"We recognized that (Rockville) is very explosive," Hand head coach Erik Becker said. "And we recognize that team won games in the fourth quarter all year long. We knew we had to finish the game as best we could. You saw as soon as we started substituting kids (in our lineup), they went down the field and scored."

No. 2 Rockville (11-2) won their previous two CIAC tournament games by one point to advance to the final. Dolan had a pair of touchdowns in the second quarter as the Tigers (12-1) broke open the contest. On consecutive offensive plays, he had runs of 66 and 40 yards for Hand. Quarterback Jack Shay also had a pair of touchdown passes in the first half as Hand led 27-7 at the break. Dolan had two more touchdown runs in the second half along his first career TD pass.

"We were so up for this," Dolan said. "This was such a combined effort. Everyone did their jobs and it worked out perfectly. The passion we all had for this game, I don't know how to explain it. We care so much for each other." Rockville QB Brady Ramsdell completed 17-of-33 passes for 178 yards and a pair of touchdowns to Carson Morgan. Amir Knighton led the Rams, who were seeking their first state title since 1990, with 100 yards and a touchdown.

Hand 57, Rockville 20

At New Britain

Rockville (11-2)	0	7	6	0	7	--	20
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Hand (12-1)	0	27	14	0	16	--	57
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Second quarter

H: Aidan Dolan 66 run (John Healy kick), 7:57

H: Dolan 40 run (Healy kick), 6:45

H: Tyler Narracci 4 pass from Jack Shay (pass fails), 4:48

H: Quinton O'Dea 14 pass from Shay (Healy kick), 2:49

R: Carson Morgan 18 pass from Brady Ramsdell (Molly Wilson kick), 0:58

Third quarter

H: Paul Calandrelli 14 run (Healy kick), 9:13

R: Morgan 32 pass from Ramsdell (kick failed), 5:57

H: Dolan 7 run (Healy kick), 1:29

Fourth quarter

H: Dolan 10 run (kick wide), 9:47

H: Owen Preskar 43 pass from Dolan (Healy kick), 7:41

H: Healy 28 FG, 5:34

R: Amir Knighton 13 run (Wilson kick), 2:26

Individual Statistics

RUSHING: Rockville – Brady Ramsdell 4-21, Amir Knighton 22-100, Carson Morgan 1-minus 4; Hand – Jack Shay 1-0, Gavin Wagner 2-25, Aidan Dolan 31-269, Owen Preskar 1-minus 2, Paul Calandrelli 2-16

PASSING: Rockville – Brady Ramsdell 17-33-0, 178; Hand – Jack Shay 11-19-0, 129, Aidan Dolan 1-1-0, 43; Paul Calandrelli 0-1-0, 0

RECEIVING: Rockville – Cole Wilson 5-21, Lexington Hunter 1-17, Amir Knighton 5-59, Mason Russell 1-1, Carson Morgan 4-80; Hand – Gavin Wagner 1-2, Quinton O'Dea 3-68, Aidan Dolan 1-5, Tyler Namracci 3-28, Owen Preskar 3-68, Samuel Markovitz 1-1