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5-2014

The Indians' Longest Yard

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Tecumseh High School

Tecumseh MI

Grade: 11-12

Genre: Journalism

Third place winner

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Melnyk, Zoe N., "The Indians' Longest Yard" (2014). *Best Midwestern High School Writing 2014 Winners*.
17.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/hs_writing_2014/17

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The Tecumseh Indians' **Longest Yard**

September 30th 2013
Zoe Melnyk

The Tecumseh Indians football team suffered an unfortunate loss on their home field against Eaten Rapids Friday, November 8th causing the Indians to lose their place in the playoffs. The Indians put up a fight but in the end they were unsuccessful in pulling away with a victory and were left with the final score of 24-20. Fans were in utter shock with the loss, especially with the team being within one yard of a touch down for the last full minute of the game. Although the team is disappointed with the loss, they left the game humbled and looking forward to improving next years' team.

The team began with a promising start, scoring the first touch down and keeping a strong offense throughout the entire first quarter; however, heading into the second quarter the team seemingly lost its edge and began to lack in defense, costing the Indians a field goal and a touch down. Heading in to the second half of the game, the official score was 10-6 for Eaten Rapids. Hungry for a comeback, the Indians

were desperately trying for a touch down, but Eaten Rapids managed an intersection that lead directly to a touch down against the Indians along with a two-point conversion. Feeling the disadvantage, the Indians were losing their confidence with every minute in the third quarter. It looked as if the team's moral was completely destroyed with the third touch down from Eaten Rapids leaving the score at 24-6.

Mid-way through the fourth quarter, with defeat seemingly inevitable and with the crowds slowly departing from the game, there was a shift in the Indians tactic. The team was visibly pulling together and within minutes put themselves back in the running by scoring their second touch down of the game. With seven minutes left in the last quarter and the score being 24-12, a glimmer of hope fell across the team and its fans. Tensions were high as the minutes went on without any scoring, but the Indians managed a running play that landed them yet another touchdown as well as a two point conversion with four minutes left in the quarter. The score was officially 24-20 for Eaten Rapids and both stands were going ballistic. With this new energy running

through the field, victory seemed to be back in the Indians hands.

With one minute left in the game, the Indians can taste the triumph. The team came within one yard of a touch down, four downs, and with a full minute left on the clock. Cars that were about to leave were abandoned in the road with the drivers pressed up against the fence to watch, the crowd began to riot, and the excitement was flying through the air. The Indians' first attempt of the touch down was unsuccessful, but that did not faze the crowd. With the second attempt failing as well and the time running out, the team's nerves became an evident issue. The third attempt cost the team to fall back to four yards and both sides were absolutely crazed with cheers and screams. The last hike was given to the quarterback and there was some sort of hesitation from the team to move forward. Unfortunately, the split second pause lead to the player being tackled, time running out, and the Indians left feeling completely deflated.

As Eaten Rapids fans rushed the Indians field, the disappointment from the Indians team and fans was felt just as strongly as the excitement just minutes

prior. Everyone was completely baffled as to what had just occurred and how the team could come so close and still come up short. Although speculations were made and obvious mistakes were pointed out, the team's ultimate demise was a lack of communication. The team took the tough loss in stride and even though the season has ended, they are still working towards goals for future years.