

Arlington in 4-5A race but not content

ARTICLE

PHOTOS (1)

VIDEOS (1)

COMMENTS

By Brent Shirley

bshirley@star-telegram.com

A

A big lead at the half, over an undefeated rival, should equal a happy locker room, right? That wasn't the case for the Arlington Colts on Friday.

At halftime, with his team up by 19 against Arlington Martin, Arlington coach Scott Peach ripped into his Colts. It wasn't because he was unhappy with the 26-7 lead; he had seen signs of another collapse.



[View photos](#)

Gallery | [Arlington 47, Martin 16](#)



[Watch video](#)

[Bucking the trend](#)

Going into their rivalry game against undefeated Arlington Martin, Arlington High had a history of poor second-half performances.

"I lit into them at the half. They thought that they could be comfortable, but I didn't let them," Peach said. "I was very angry because we had tremendous momentum at halftime, and we didn't come away with enough points. We had two interceptions on their end of the field going into score, and gave up a 70-yard kickoff return for a TD."

The scolding at intermission kept Arlington focused, and the Colts (2-3, 1-1 District 4-5A) completed a shocking 47-16 rout of the defending district-champion Warriors (4-1, 1-1).

Several players also addressed the team before the third quarter.

"All of the leaders stood up in the locker room and let everyone know that we had been in that situation before, and we can't get content," Arlington quarterback Josh Greer said. "We finished them off."

Peach said, before this year's rocky start, he had not been disappointed in a Colts team.

"It was because, this year, our coaching staff felt like we were a better team than what showed up Friday nights," said Peach, who has been with Arlington for nine years.

In its second game, Arlington had a 24-7 halftime lead against Coppell. But a second-half collapse ended in a 38-24 loss that started a three-game skid.

Opponent	Halftime	Result
Plano East	Tied 14-14	Won 49-42 (OT)
Coppell	Led 24-14	Lost 38-24
Mansfield Timberview	Trailed 21-12	Lost 42-25
Arlington Lamar	Trailed 24-17	Lost 41-24
Arlington Martin	Led 26-7	Won 47-16

[High School Huddle: Games of the Week](#) 

"The attitude of the team was great through those losses, but we just didn't play the game right," Peach said. "We were up against Coppell, one of the top teams in the state, on the road. But we self-destructed, and they had a little bit to do with it. Our problem is we get in our own way too much."

The Colts, who won their first game of the year in a 49-42 overtime battle with Plano East, lost to Coppell, Mansfield Timberview 42-25 and Arlington Lamar to begin 4-5A play.

"Losing to Lamar really took us out of controlling our own destiny," Peach said. "We had to fight to get that back and needed to knock off somebody high up in the charts, and that was Martin."

Against the Lamar Vikings, Arlington was down by just a touchdown before a disappointing second half led to the 41-24 loss.

"Everyone around our school was talking about how the football season was over after just four games," Greer said.

But Greer and his teammates weren't ready for their season to be over.

"I think that game changed everything for this team," said Greer, who has 1,437 yards passing and 12 TDs this season. "Now everyone is talking about how we can win district. We didn't really think about what would happen if we lost to Martin like everyone else. We just knew we had to go win it, no matter what it took."

Arlington cornerback Devin Harris had also heard the negative words around school and in the community.

"I was hearing it everywhere," Harris said. "It just motivated us to play together, as a family."

After Monday's practice, Peach was upset with his players again.

"I was not pleased with practice because we came out too content," Peach said.

1

"We can't be content. We have to work on things to get better as a football team. We can't let a win against Martin define our entire season. We want to make a run in the playoffs."

Brent Shirley, 817-390-7760