One of the things Airline head coach Bo Meeks and his staff stressed during the offseason was that to be successful, the Vikings would have to take care of the football and cut down on turnovers.

Through the first four games of the season, the Vikings did just that.

But that wasn't the case Friday night.

Airline turned the ball over six times, including three on its first four possessions, in a 48-14 loss to defending Class 4A state champion Neville in Monroe.

It was the first loss of the season for the Vikings (4-1). Neville, a unanimous No. 1 in the LSWA Class 4A poll, improved to 5-0.

"We missed a couple of opportunities early," Meeks said. "We had a chance to take advantage of them and we didn't. Turnovers and missed tackles, it was one of those nights. They have a great football team and you can't make those mistakes and beat a team like that."

Airline got off to a promising start but missed a short field goal. The Vikings then forced a punt. It hit an Airline player in the back and Neville recovered.

That set up the Tigers'first touchdown and things went downhill from there. Neville led 33-0 at the half.

Airline senior quarterback Hayden Hildebrand, who had only one interception going into the game, was picked off three times. He completed 16 of 32 passes for 212 yards and two touchdowns to Laterious Pouncy.

“I think obviously some of it was Neville, but a lot of it was just our mistakes,” Meeks said. “I don’t know where that came from. It’s something we’ve got to fix moving on down the road. We’re going to do that and get ready for Captain Shreve.”

Meeks' goal is for Airline to be on the same level as programs like Neville, which has won 19 in a row. To do that, he said the Vikings must "seize the stage" when they have the opportunity.

"They've got one of the best teams in the state regardless of class," he said. "To be an elite program, that's the kind of team you have to compete with and beat.

We’ve got to go back to the drawing board and improve in some areas and give ourselves a chance to win in big games like that.”

Hildebrand expects the Vikings to get there.

"Tough night, but it is what it is. Don't doubt our team, though," he said in a Twitter message after the game.