

Wall Clips Irene-Wakonda In 9A Quarterfinals Roundup: Trojans Top Panthers

BY SALLY JONES
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WALL — With the opponent's starting quarterback hobbled by an ankle injury and on the bench for the first half, the Wall Eagles turned up the defensive pressure in a 9A quarterfinal matchup, taking the lead for good with just 71 seconds gone in the game, to defeat the Irene-Wakonda Eagles, 22-16 on Monday night.

"They came out real strong in that first quarter defensively, and we couldn't get untracked," Irene-Wakonda head coach Brent Mutchelknaus said. "We've been a power running team most of the year and we just couldn't get anything going in that first quarter."

With just two points on the board in the first half, Irene-

Wakonda finally broke through early in the fourth quarter, after Dustin Livingston took his regular starting spot at quarterback to start the third quarter. Senior Sam Kiger made a diving catch in the end zone for a 27-yard touchdown reception to pull the Eagles within eight.

But Wall forced Irene-Wakonda's fifth punt of the night, and leading just 16-8 put the game away in the fourth quarter with a clock-eating, run-only drive. Starting on their own 10-yard line and aided by two 15-yard personal fouls, Wall notched five first downs on some pretty runs by Trask and Chavis Shull. On the fifteenth play of the series, quarterback Lane Blasius bootlegged around left end to go in the end zone untouched.

Livingston connected with Kiger for a 40-yard score with 1:15 left in the game, but it was too little, too late.

After Irene-Wakonda went four and out in their first series, Wall got on the board with 10:49 to go in the first quarter. On their first play from scrimmage, Trask raced around left end for a 36-yard touchdown, capped by a 2-point conversion pass to Ben Linn, giving Wall a lead they would not relinquish. Trask finished the night with 14 carries for 167 yards and two touchdowns.

Irene-Wakonda dodged a bullet with 3:22 to go in the first half, as Wall dipped into its bag of tricks and executed the reverse perfectly with Trask breaking free for an 84-yard run, only to have the play called back by an illegal

block in the back.

On the next play, quarterback Lane Blasius was flushed out of the pocket, and flagged for intentional grounding from the end zone, notching a safety for Irene-Wakonda to give Wall a 16-2 lead at the half.

Neither team could get anything going in the third quarter.

After winning the coin toss and deferring to the second half, Wall launched a 12-play drive to start the third, gobbling up big chunks of yardage. But with first and goal from the 10, Chris Heirigs of Irene-Wakonda made a diving interception at the two-foot line to snuff out the threat.

Pushed back against their goal, Irene-Wakonda mustered just eight yards of offense before an illegal substitution penalty pushed

HARTFORD — West Central got off to a late start with no points in the first quarter, but a strong effort from Devon Blaine led the Trojans to a 30-13 victory over Dakota Valley.

The Trojans totalled 296 rushing yards in the game. Most of them coming from Devon Blaine who had 20 carries for 147 yards and two touchdowns. Connor Miles also added two touchdowns on the night from 15 yards and five yards.

Josh Auble led the defense with four tackles. Mike Becker added three tackles and an interception.

Dakota Valley's Brock Bergmann led the offense with 144 passing yards and one touchdown. Tanner Lambert added 28 yards rushing and one touchdown.

DAKOTA VALLEY (6-4).....7 0 6 — 13
WEST CENTRAL (9-1).....0 13 3 14 — 30

Selby Area 52 - 0 in Monday night's 9A quarterfinal playoff action in Canistota.

Trevor Schroeder scored first for the Hawks with a six yard touchdown pass from Cody Bunger. Bunger would also add points from a 45 yard run later in the first quarter. Canistota (10-0) didn't slow down in the second quarter, getting help from Troy Hofer who brought in a 36 yard touchdown pass from Bunger. Teammate Alex Robertson added to the score with a 15 yard run.

Offensively, the Hawks were led by Cody Bunger who finished the night rushing 123 yards on six carries. Teammate alex Robertson delivered 63 yards on 11 carries. Defensively, Jason Vanwinkele led the Hawks with five tackles, while Trevor Schroeder had four.

Herreid-Selby Area (6-4) finished the night with 4 yards on 19 carries. Brady Vandovorst finished the night going one for eight for 14 yards.

HERREID-SELBY AREA (6-4).....0 0 0 — 0
CANISTOTA (10-0).....30 22 — 52

Class 9AA

Kimball-White Lake 31, Gettysburg-Hoven 14

KIMBALL — The Kimball-White Lake Wildcats defeated Gettysburg-Hoven in 9AA quarter-final playoff action Monday night, winning 31-14.

The Wildkats scored first with a six yard run by Trevor Reinsch. Reinsch would score later in the half with a 24 yard touchdown pass from Jesse Taylor. Jacob Kirsch brought in an eight yard touchdown pass from Jesse Taylor to add to the Wildkats score. Kirsch kicked one through the posts from 29 yards out to add three points for Kimball-White Lake.

Offensively, the Wildkats (8-2) finished with 71 yards through the air. Taylor ended the night with two touchdown passes and completing four of nine attempts for 71 yards. Jacob Kirsch led the defense with nine tackles, while teammate Dylan Konechne added eight.

Gettysburg-Hoven (6-4) got going in the second quarter with a one yard touchdown run by Hayden Simon. Tate Nafziger added points with a one yard touchdown run. Nafziger then ran it in from three yards out for extra points.

Gettysburg-Hoven completed 115 yards on the ground with 28 rushes. Nafziger had 10 rushes for 58 yards and went eight for 25 through the air for 130 yards.

Kimball-White Lake will host third round playoff action on Saturday.

GETTYSBURG-HOVEN (6-4).....0 6 8 0 — 14
KIMBALL-WHITE LAKE (8-2).....6 17 0 8 — 31

Bucks

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out there," Likness said. "As a result, we gave up great field position. (O'Gorman) is a great team. They knew what to do with it."

On O'Gorman's ensuing possession, the Knights drove down to the 23 only to have a touchdown called back. Three more penalties later, O'Gorman sent out the punt team.

After Yankton stalled again, Juhl returned the ball to the Yankton 14. The Bucks forced a fumble, seemingly staving off the rout — but an interception by Sam Wallin three plays later set up another O'Gorman score, a 1-yard dive by Connor Schaeferbauer. Yankton's next drive resulted in another interception, this time by Austin Pharis in the endzone. Touchdowns by Schaeferbauer and Nic Steffl extended the lead, and Pharis' return of a blocked punt on the final play of the half made it 47-0 O'Gorman.

The Knights would tack on another Nic Steffl score, this one from 66 yards out, before emptying their bench.

Yankton got touchdown runs from Connor Fitzsimmons — his 18th score of the season — and Brady Knodel before also putting in its reserves.

While the victory was an easy one for the Knights — who have now outscored Yankton 187-35 in their last four meetings, dating back to O'Gorman's 2005 championship win over the Bucks — it came at a price.

"We lost Juhl right away," Kueter noted. "Sam Steffl went out with a hip pointer. We had already lost Flynn Donelan for the season. We're starting to run out of running backs."

Nic Steffl finished with 193 yards on just 11 carries to lead O'Gorman. Sam Steffl had 72 yards on seven carries as the Knights finished with 290 yards rushing.

Austin Ridl and Weston Bednar



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton freshman Brady Hale gets a point-after-touchdown kick off just ahead of a block attempt by Sioux Falls O'Gorman's (No. 10) during their Class 11AA quarterfinal game Tuesday at McEaney Field in Sioux Falls. The Knights defeated Yankton 54-14 after leading 47-0 at halftime.

each had eight stops for the O'Gorman defense. Jordan Hermanson had the game's only sack. Wallin, Pharis and Mark Haiar added interceptions.

Knodel rushed for 66 yards and Fitzsimmons rushed for 62 yards for Yankton. Michael Rucker was 7-14 passing for 68 yards and three interceptions, moving him to within 100 yards of breaking the Bucks' all-time career passing yardage mark. Jackson Pasco had three catches for 51 yards, ending his career as the Bucks' number two receiver all-time in yardage and number three in receptions.

Wilson Tieszen made eight tackles and C.J. Warren had seven stops to lead the Buck defense.

O'Gorman, now 9-2, advances to a semifinal matchup with Sioux Falls Roosevelt, a 1 p.m. start at Howard Wood Field. The Rough Riders beat O'Gorman 19-14 on Sept. 3.

"We need to move the ball better against Roosevelt," Kueter noted. "They swarm to the ball."

They move so fast on defense."

Yankton finishes its season at 7-4, ending its season with a loss to a Sioux Falls school for the seventh time in eight seasons.

"I think part of it is mental. I think we have the personnel to stay in the ball game," Likness said. The Bucks have now lost 12 of 13 to Sioux Falls schools. "But we shoot ourselves in the foot, then compound it by hanging our heads."

Yankton did earn a share of its first Eastern South Dakota Conference title since 2005, but lost the title outright with a regular season-ending loss to Brandon Valley.

"We had some great seniors this year, made some steps in the right direction," Likness said. "But now we have to go a step further."

YANKTON (7-3).....0 0 7 7 — 14
O'GORMAN (9-2).....14 33 7 0 — 54

First Quarter
OG — Adam Juhl, 48-yard punt return (Alex Millard kick)
OG — Sam Steffl, 50-yard run (Millard kick)
Second Quarter
OG — Connor Schaeferbauer, 1-yard run (kick failed)
OG — Austin Pharis, 1-yard interception return (Millard kick)
OG — Schaeferbauer, 1-yard run (Millard kick)

Avon

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St. Mary's conversion pass fell incomplete, but Avon's lead was trimmed to 22-6 with 2:39 to play in the third quarter.

Any notion of a Cardinal comeback was dashed as Powers answered with a 54-yard dash to the endzone on Avon's next play. Powers was stopped short on the conversion, but the Pirates led 28-6.

Tolsma scored on a 2-yard run to start the fourth quarter and Brandon Kocmich swept in for the conversion and a 36-6 Avon lead.

Powers added an 18-yard touchdown run with 8:34 to play for the 42-6 final.

The Pirates had mid-game chances to build on their lead, and finally put the Cardinals away late.

"We wanted to jump on them early," Avon head coach Tom Culver said. "There were some mistakes we can't have, but we finished the game and I was pretty happy with that."

Even after Powers' opening run, the Cardinals continued to fight.

"They're well coached, so I knew they weren't going to roll over," Culver said. "I challenged the kids that way and they responded."

The Pirates ran for 376 yards on the night as Powers had 235 yards on 14 carries.

"The line stepped up tonight and showed how good they can be, and the backs ran really hard," Powers said.

Tolsma led Avon (9-1) with 18

tackles as Powers had 17.

Gannon led St. Mary's (7-3) with 36 yards on the ground as Michel passed for 51 yards. Lee had two catches for 19 yards.

The Pirates will travel to perennial 9-man contenders Harding County Saturday for the right to return to the Dakota-Dome for the 9B championship.

"As long as we don't have a mental block about making the trip, I think we'll be fine," Culver said. "There's a lot of tradition out there too, so I'm sure it's going to be a battle." "We're looking forward to going out to Harding County and showing them what we're made off," Powers said.

Powers and the Pirates are ready to spend their Saturday in full pursuit of the 9B final.

"Playing football," Powers said. "That's what we live for down here."

Retire

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11), La Russa compiled a 2,728-2,365 regular-season record. He trails only Connie Mack (3,731) and John McGraw (2,763) for wins. And his 70 postseason victories are behind only Joe Torre's 84.

A rare manager with a law degree, La Russa was voted AL Manager of the Year three times, and NL Manager of the Year in 2002. He will be up for consideration for the Hall of Fame in December 2013, at the same time as Torre and Bobby Cox.

"I think you can make a case for him as best of all-time. Absolutely," said Detroit manager Jim Leyland, who coached for La Russa with the White Sox after managing against him in the minors.

Leyland said La Russa was the "total package" as a manager, ob-

sessing over the lineup card, outfoxing opponents during games and refusing to bend to public opinion.

"Terry Francona used to say 'If you manage for the guys in the seats, pretty soon you'll be sitting with 'em.' Tony never worried about that stuff," Leyland said. "It's a good lesson for managers."

La Russa revolutionized the sport during his time with Oakland, making Dennis Eckersley a one-inning closer. Now, it's common for all 30 big league teams.

"He's been an outstanding leader of many different teams under many different circumstances, and that's hard to do," said New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson, La Russa's GM with the Athletics.

La Russa had unusual strategies: He started a game with the pitcher batting eighth 432 times. He was renowned for his use of batter-pitcher matchups in determining which reliever to bring in, but also ridiculed "Moneyball"

and its emphasis on statistics over human scouting and observation.

Potential successors include Francona, Jim Rigglesman and Joe Maddon, who has one year left on his deal in Tampa Bay but has expressed interest in the Cardinals in the past.

A pal of Bobby Knight, Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick, La Russa was an outspoken supporter of PETA and animal rights, and could be seen during spring training years ago in Phoenix hitting fly balls to one of his dogs.

He was treated at the Mayo Clinic in May for shingles, which left his face swollen and right eye nearly shut. The manager downplayed his health, saying "it had no bearing on my future."

La Russa spoke with little emotion at the news conference with one exception, when he paused to compose himself as he thanked his wife, Elaine, and two daughters for putting up with his absence over much of his long tenure.

All-ESD

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recognition.

Pasco will graduate as one of the Bucks' all-time leading receivers, with career totals of 41 receptions for 758 yards, ranking second all-time in receiving yards. He has 27 catches for 363 yards and three scores this season.

"There were a lot of good receivers in the conference," Likness noted. "He had a good year for us, but there were a lot of kids that had 45-50 catches."

Huber was a key cog on both the offensive and defensive lines, moving from tight end last sea-

son to help the Bucks' interior. Defensively, he had 26 tackles and one sack. He also served as one of the team's kickers, making one field goal on the season.

"For Huber to be hurt last year and come back, and come back stronger, says a lot about his effort," Likness noted.

Mitchell, which finished 5-2 in league play, put eight on the elite list — three each on offense and defense, two on special teams. Brandon Valley, which beat Yankton in the final game of the regular season to share the league title, also had five selections, as did Brookings. Aberdeen Central and Huron had three selections each, with Pierre and Watertown — the two ESD teams not making the playoffs — garnering two each.



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