

9AA Gameday: Road Warrior Tigers Hope To Finish With Bang

CLASS 9AA

GAME DAY

DEUBROOK AREA DOLPHINS

CHAMPIONSHIPS: None  
RUNNER-UP: None

STAT LEADERS

RUSHING						
	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Ryan Knutson	206	2,175	10.8	87	38	
Riley Hanson	59	574	9.7	—	6	
Dalton Kruse	28	355	12.7	77	6	
Taylor Olsen	39	245	6.3	—	4	
DOLPHINS	375	3,586	9.6	87	58	

PASSING						
	Com	Att	Yds	Int	TD	
Taylor Olsen	66	134	987	—	12	
DOLPHINS	69	140	1,027	3	12	

RECEIVING						
	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Dustin Troolen	27	488	18.1	68	3	
Cory Byers	14	231	16.5	—	6	
Riley Hanson	14	217	15.5	—	3	
Tyler Jensen	5	43	8.6	—	0	
DOLPHINS	69	1,027	14.9	65	12	

PLACE KICKING						
	EPm	EPa	FGm	FGa	Long	
Kay Glatzer	37	—	—	—	—	

PUNTING						
	No	Avg	Long	In20		
Cory Byers	13	38.3	50	—	—	

DEFENSIVE LEADERS						
	Tack	Sack	INT	FR		
Tyler Jensen	145	2.0	—	2		
Evan Sheffield	95	3.0	—	—		
Dallas Murphy	85	5.0	—	2		
Dustin Troolen	62	—	3	1		
Ryan Knutson	47	3.0	—	4		
Kay Glatzer	47	3.0	—	1		
Riley Hanson	37	—	5	—		
DOLPHINS	890	16	15	11		

MATCHUPS

DA OFFENSE VS. HHS DEFENSE

The Dolphins' Ryan Knutson has swam through opposing defenses, finding the endzone 38 times on the way to 2,175 yards on the season. Deubrook can pass, too, with Taylor Olsen throwing for nearly 1,000 yards and 12 scores. (Advantage: Deubrook Area)

HHS OFFENSE VS. DA DEFENSE

Sophomore back Luke Loudenber has been a mighty mite for the Tigers. The 5-4, 135-pound back has rushed for 1,451 yards (16 TD). Cole Potter has also rushed for nearly 1,000 yards and QB Landon Laible has completed nearly two-thirds of his passes. (Advantage: Howard)

11-0

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	DA	Opp
Aug. 31	Colman-Egan	55	26
Sept. 7	@ Estelline	68	28
Sept. 14	Elkton-Lake Benton	21	0
Sept. 21	Castlewood	34	12
Sept. 28	@ Dell Rapids St. Mary	64	30
Oct. 5	@ Oldham-Ramona-Rutland	50	0
Oct. 12	DeSmet-Iroquois	59	8
Oct. 18	@ Arlington	43	6
Oct. 23	Ipswich-Ed. Cent. (playoffs)	55	0
Oct. 30	Potter County (playoffs, OT)	22	20
Nov. 3	Gregory (playoffs)	44	37

PROBABLE STARTERS

DOLPHINS OFFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
QB	8	Taylor Olsen	6-2	175	Sr.
RB	24	Ryan Knutson	5-8	150	Sr.
FB	3	Tyler Jensen	5-11	195	Sr.
WR	4	Riley Hanson	5-8	140	Jr.
WR	8	Dustin Trodien	5-11	155	Jr.
TE	18	Cory Byers	6-6	210	Sr.
G	92	Clayton Dahl	6-0	230	Jr.
G	54	Dallas Murphy	6-5	230	Jr.
C	99	Michael Goens	6-1	245	Sr.

Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
CB	24	Ryan Knutson	5-8	150	Sr.
CB	4	Riley Hanson	5-8	140	Jr.
FS	8	Dustin Troolen	5-11	155	Jr.
OLB	42	Evan Sheffield	6-0	190	So.
OLB	44	Kay Glatzer	6-0	180	Jr.
MLB	3	Tyler Jensen	5-11	195	Sr.
NT	92	Clayton Dahl	6-0	230	Jr.
DE	18	Cory Byers	6-6	210	Sr.
DE	54	Dallas Murphy	6-5	230	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Deubrook Area has more reliable skill players at both kicker and punter, something that could be vital in a close game, as state finals tend to be. (Advantage: Deubrook Area)

INTANGIBLES

Both teams have won big games down the stretch. Howard edged out top-ranked Kimball-White Lake in the quarterfinals. Deubrook Area had exciting victories over Potter County (22-20, OT) and Gregory (44-37 come-from-behind) in the last two playoff games. (Push)

HOWARD TIGERS

CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2009  
RUNNER-UP: None

STAT LEADERS

RUSHING						
	Att	Yds	Avg	TD		
Luke Loudenburg	170	1,451	8.5	16		
Cole Potter	64	933	14.6	14		
Evan Donahue	95	822	8.7	11		
Landon Laible	33	51	1.5	8		
TIGERS	418	3,810	9.1	54		

PASSING						
	Com	Att	Yds			
Landon Laible	49	75	637			
TIGERS	50	78	640			

RECEIVING						
	Att	Yds	Avg	TD		
Steve Larsen	11	184	16.7	2		
Evan Donahue	10	128	12.8	3		
Luke Loudenburg	10	94	9.4	1		
Andrew Schwader	9	72	8.0	4		
TIGERS	50	640	12.8	13		

PLACE KICKING						
	EPm	EPa	FGm	FGa	Long	
Isaiah Glanzer	9	19	—	—	—	

PUNTING						
	No	Avg				
Andrew Schwader	12	—	—	—	—	

DEFENSIVE LEADERS						
	Tack	Sack	INT	FR		
Hunter Eggert	81	1.0	—	—		
Evan Donahue	77	—	3	1		
Jordan Kuhle	72	—	—	1		
Cole Potter	63	4.0	—	2		
Cal Wiese	62	—	3	1		
James Jungwirth	48	4.0	—	1		
Andrew Schwader	43	3.0	—	—		
Steve Larsen	38	1.0	—	2		
TIGERS	716	15	8	14		

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SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	HHS	Opp
Aug. 24	Canistota	16	20
Sept. 7	@ Chester Area	66	40
Sept. 14	@ Parker	36	8
Sept. 21	Freeman	49	6
Sept. 28	@ Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	26	28
Oct. 5	Hanson	33	6
Oct. 12	Baltic	58	7
Oct. 18	@ Mount Vernon	58	8
Oct. 23	Elkton-Lake Benton (playoffs)	51	23
Oct. 30	@ Kimball-Wh. Lake (playoffs)	38	34
Nov. 3	@ Clark-Willow Lk (playoffs)	50	30

PROBABLE STARTERS

Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
C	64	Nick Parody	5-11	210	Jr.
G	71	Ben Walter	6-1	220	Sr.
G	50	Nathan Dawson	5-11	185	Sr.
TE	85	Andrew Schwader	6-2	210	Sr.
TE	35	Steve Larsen	6-2	170	Sr.
RB	5	Evan Donahue	5-8	160	Sr.
RB	27	Cal Wiese	5-10	160	Sr.
FB	23	Luke Loudenburg	5-4	135	So.
QB	10	Landon Laible	6-2	170	Sr.

Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
DE	85	Andrew Schwader	6-2	210	Sr.
DT	71	Ben Walter	6-1	220	Sr.
DE	50	Nathan Dawson	5-11	185	Sr.
LB	27	Cal Wiese	5-10	160	Sr.
LB	21	Jordan Kuhle	6-0	150	So.
LB	84	Hunter Eggert	6-0	180	Jr.
LB	64	Nick Parody	5-11	210	Jr.
LB	5	Evan Donahue	5-8	160	Sr.
DB	23	Luke Loudenburg	5-4	135	So.

PREDICTION

Both teams have great star running backs, solid second options and quality passers. This could be one of those close games that comes down to a special teams play.

DEUBROOK AREA 21, HOWARD 20

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — For a total of one week in the playoffs, the Howard Tigers were, on paper, the favorite.

Still, they put together another deep run and find themselves in the Class 9AA championship game today (Thursday) against undefeated Deubrook Area at 2:30 p.m. at the DakotaDome.

Following an opening round win over Elkton-Lake Benton, Howard (9-2) was given the No. 8 seed, not all that surprising, but rather low for a powerful team. Not that it made much difference, though, according to head coach Pat Ruml.

“Wherever they put us, we were going there confident,” Ruml said. “We’ve been playing the same all year; good football. Even our two losses were very close, so it’s been pretty steady for us.”

The Tigers — whose only two losses came to defending state champions 9A Canistota and 9AA Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan — upset top-ranked Kimball-White Lake 38-34 in the quarterfinals and steam-rolled Clark-Willow Lake 50-0 in the semifinals.

Exactly how the Tigers have put together another championship run is no big secret: They run. Howard has rushed for at least 200 yards in every game this season, including a 482-yard effort in the semifinals.

The rushing attack is led by sophomore Luke Loudenburg (1451 yds, 16 TD), senior Evan Donahue (822 yds, 11 TD) and senior Cole Potter (933 yds, 14 TD). All three average over eight yards a carry, though Potter is a game-time decision because of an injury, Ruml said.

“We’ve won two games with Cole being out, so we’ve had some guys really step up,” Ruml said. “The other kids came in and ran things like normal.”

Senior quarterback Landon Laible has passed for 637 yards, most to leading receiver Steve Larsen (Sr., 11 rec., 184 yds, 2 TD), while Loudenburg and Donahue each have 10 catches.

“It’s all about assignment football for us,” Ruml said. “We take care of blocks and our offensive line is very smart. We get a look at the two or three defenses we’ll see, and when we get to the game, we make adjustments.

“We can line up on just about any defense out there, and we know we can get it done.”

Howard’s defense is just as balanced. Senior Hunter Eggert leads the team in tackles (81), followed by Donahue (77), sophomore Jordan Kuhle (72) and Potter (63). Senior James Jungwirth and Potter each have four sacks, while Donahue and senior Cal Wiese both have three interceptions.

The Tigers will need that defense against the high-powered Deubrook Area Dolphins (11-0), who rush for an average of 326 yards per game.

Deubrook Area, which lost in the semifinals last year, beat Gregory 44-37 in Saturday’s semifinals. The Dolphins are significantly more balanced on offense than is Howard, but that’s not to say they don’t have a strong rushing attack.

Senior Ryan Knutson leads the offense with 2,175 yards and 38 touchdowns on the ground, and is joined by junior Riley Hanson (574 yds, 6 TD) and sophomore Dalton Kruse (355 yds, 6 TD).

Senior quarterback Taylor Olson has completed 66-of-134 passes for 987 yards and 12 touchdowns. His favorite receiver has been junior Dustin Troolen (27 rec., 488 yds, 3 TD), while senior Cory Byers leads with six touchdowns and Hanson has three scores.

“They like to run it up the middle, and Hanson is really

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9B Gameday: Cowboys, Ranchers Set For West River Shootout

CLASS 9B

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Wammen said. "He can do it all."

Steven Koch has provided a solid second option in the running game, going for 736 yards

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HARDING COUNTY RANCHERS

CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1993  
RUNNER-UP: 1992, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2010

STAT LEADERS

RUSHING					
	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	T
Jess Feist	126	1,133	9.0	80	2
Steven Koch	102	736	7.2	45	1
Winston Hewson	60	454	7.6	45	
Dalton McCann	68	411	6.0	47	
<b>RANCHERS</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>2,828</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>4</b>