

Trojans, Cavaliers Aim For First State Title



P&D FILE PHOTO

Parkston's Wes Dvorak runs untouched into the endzone during a Class 11B football playoff game earlier this season. The Trojans will look to win the program's first state football title today (Friday).

BY JEREMY HOECK
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The Parkston Trojans are back where they've wanted to be since day one of pre-season practices in August — the DakotaDome. After coming up just short in last year's Class 11B state title game, the undefeated Trojans will go for the elusive championship against St. Thomas More today (Friday) at 1:30 p.m. in Vermillion.

"We came into the season, and this was one of our main goals," Parkston head coach Eric Norden said. "It's a big step for us. But getting there is just part of that." Along with the way to an unblemished record, the Trojans (11-0) have played only one close game — a 10-0 win over defending champion Canton. Since then, it's been domination on both sides of the ball.

Parkston has averaged 42 points and allowed four per game and is out-gaining opponents by 200 yards per outing. They've stepped it up in the playoffs, out-scoring opponents 136-6.

"It's been good to see the guys coming together, playing as a team like they have," Norden said. "They're very team oriented. We understand the importance of rooting for us as a whole."

Senior quarterback Wes Dvorak has emerged as one of the state's top do-it-all offensive weapons. In addition to passing for 292 yards and seven touchdowns, he leads the team in rushing (1,292 yards, 25 TD) and receiving (8 rec., 180 yards, 3 TD).

"He's so athletic, and he does a lot of good things, mentally and physically," Norden said. "The team has really rallied around him."

As a team, the Trojans average 8.1 yards per carry, and have gotten 10 touchdowns from Miles Semmler, and four each from Blake Bietz and David Voorhees. Iowa commit Brady Reiff has caught five touchdown passes, while Lane Konrad has three.

If they are to hoist the championship trophy, the Trojans will again

CLASS 11B CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Thomas More (11-1) vs. Parkston (11-0)

1:30 p.m. • Radio: KMIT-FM, KQRN-FM, KTOQ-AM/FM, KWSN-AM/FM • TV: SDPB

CAVALIERS OFFENSE						TROJANS OFFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
C	69	Jon Hanson	5-10	215	Jr	C	55	Dillon Stadman	5-11	180	Sr
RG	56	Andre Montoya	6-2	230	Sr	G	75	Caleb Horstman	6-0	260	Sr
LG	52	Brady Schmitt	6-0	235	Jr	G	74	Tanner Lindeman	6-0	200	Sr
RT	55	Lincoln Feist	6-3	290	Sr	T	77	Austin Bertram	6-2	190	Sr
LT	58	Carter Vincent	6-2	210	Sr	T	76	Wesley Genant	6-4	275	Jr
WR	83	Evan Henderson	6-2	190	Sr	WR	22	Lane Konrad	6-1	155	Sr
WR	7	Alek Keegan	6-2	170	Jr	E	30	Dilan Thuringer	5-9	210	Jr
WR	1	Cole Thumness	5-11	170	Jr	RB	35	Blake Bietz	5-9	165	So
RB	13	Travis Mills	6-1	200	Sr	RB	43	Brady Reiff	6-4	230	Sr
RB	11	Jake Aanderud	5-9	150	So	RB	31	Miles Semmler	6-0	195	Sr
QB	10	Matt Eastmo	6-1	185	Sr	QB	10	Wes Dvorak	6-2	175	Sr

CAVALIERS DEFENSE						TROJANS DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
E	50	Grady Grimshaw	6-2	180	Jr	NG	75	Caleb Horstman	6-0	260	Sr
T	56	Andre Montoya	6-2	230	Sr	DT	54	Tanner Reichert	6-0	215	Sr
T	55	Lincoln Feist	6-3	290	Sr	DT	74	Tanner Lindemann	6-0	200	Sr
LB	13	Travis Mills	6-1	200	Sr	OLB	43	Brady Reiff	6-4	230	Sr
LB	59	Aaron Moody	5-9	180	Sr	OLB	77	Austin Bertram	6-2	190	Sr
LB	21	Hunter Collins	6-2	180	So	ILB	31	Miles Semmler	6-0	195	Sr
LB	58	Carter Vincent	6-2	210	Sr	ILB	55	Dillon Stadman	5-11	180	Sr
CB	11	Jake Aanderud	5-9	150	So	CB	35	Blake Bietz	5-9	165	So
CB	23	Alex Klapperich	5-10	160	Sr	CB	15	David Voorhees	5-8	170	Jr
S	1	Cole Thumness	5-11	170	Jr	S	10	Wes Dvorak	6-2	175	Sr
						S	22	Lane Konrad	6-1	155	Sr

TEAM LEADERS													
RUSHING:	Matthew Eastmo	134-690	yards, 6 TD; Travis Mills	114-621, 13 TD; Jake Aanderud	73-437, 4 TD								
PASSING:	Matthew Eastmo	99-182, 1,593	yards, 23 TD, 5 INT										
RECEIVING:	Alek Keegan	23-395	yards, 6 TD; Cole Thumness	20-296, 5 TD; P.J. Freidell	14-216, 3 TD								
DEFENSE:	Lincoln Feist	65	tackles, 19 TFL, 4 sacks; Cole Thumness	59	tackles, 2 INT; Carter Vincent	52	tackles, 10 TFL; Andrew Montoya	51	tackles, 17 TFL; Cameron Fees	42	tackles, 10.5 TFL, 3.5 sacks, 3 INT; Travis Mills	31	tackles, 3.5 TFL, 3 INT

CLASS 9B CHAMPIONSHIP

Faulkton Area (10-1) vs. Hamlin (11-0)

10:30 a.m. • Radio: KABD-FM, KMOM-FM, KNBZ-FM • TV: SDPB

TROJANS OFFENSE						CHARGERS OFFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
TE	88	Jacob McCloud	6-1	210	Sr	WR	28	Ryder Grantham	5-10	167	Jr
G	96	Brady Hyatt	6-1	230	Sr	WR	32	E.J. Drake	6-3	200	Sr
C	77	Connor Brand	6-3	225	Jr	TE	7	Tristen Leiseth	6-2	211	Sr
G	75	Lane Meyer	6-1	200	Sr	G	72	Elex Rust	6-2	218	Sr
TE	28	Lane Melius	6-3	190	Jr	C	55	Cody Swenson	6-3	177	Jr
WR	34	Cole Baloun	5-11	155	Sr	G	52	Drake Rust	6-3	235	Jr
FB	42	Carson Ortmeier	5-10	170	Jr	FB	15	Kale Stieg	5-10	176	So
RB	36	Darin Wieseler	5-8	175	Sr	RB	30	Austin Niemann	6-0	174	Sr
QB	5	Kurt Beidler	6-2	190	Sr	QB	10	Brody Grantham	6-1	205	Sr

TROJANS DEFENSE						CHARGERS DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
DE	88	Jacob McCloud	6-1	210	Sr	DE	7	Tristen Leiseth	6-2	211	Sr
DT	90	Ray Edgar	5-10	210	Sr	DE	44	Logan Peckinpough	5-11	215	Sr
DT	75	Lane Meyer	6-1	200	Sr	DE	15	Kale Stieg	5-10	176	So
DE	28	Lane Melius	6-3	190	Jr	LB	56	Chance Popham	6-3	152	Sr
OLB	42	Carson Ortmeier	5-10	170	Jr	LB	28	Ryder Grantham	5-10	167	Jr
MLB	32	Jack Aesoph	5-10	175	So	LB	10	Brody Grantham	6-1	205	Sr
OLB	36	Darin Wieseler	5-8	175	Sr	LB	30	Austin Niemann	6-0	174	Sr
CB	34	Cole Baloun	5-11	155	Sr	S	27	Griffen Krippeling	6-4	170	Sr
S	89	Cole Brand	5-11	165	Jr	S	32	E.J. Drake	6-3	200	Sr

TEAM LEADERS									
RUSHING:	Darin Wieseler	192-1,827	yards, 29 TD; Carson Ortmeier	85-445, 6 TD; Kurt Beidler	45-118, 6 TD				
PASSING:	Kurt Beidler	75-106, 1,226	yards, 15 TD, 4 INT						
RECEIVING:	Cole Baloun	29-606	yards, 9 TD; Jacob McCloud	12-182, 2 TD; Carson Ortmeier	11-126, 2 TD				
DEFENSE:	Lane Meyer	50	tackles, 11 TFL; Jack Aesoph	47	tackles, 6 TFL; Darin Wieseler	43	tackles, 5 TFL; Josh McCloud	33	tackles, 4.5 TFL

Faulkton Aims To Spoil Hamlin's Perfect Season

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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A two-point loss to Avon in the state finals a year ago didn't sit well with a young Hamlin Chargers team. Now a senior-laden Charger squad is looking to finish the job.

Hamlin takes an 11-0 record into today's (Friday) South Dakota Class 9B football championship game matchup with Faulkton Area (10-1). The game opens a three-contest day in Vermillion's DakotaDome at 10:30 a.m.

"Last year we came up a couple of minutes short," said Hamlin head coach Jeff Sheehan. "Our boys realized that they need to work extra hard even to finish games. They need to finish off every down, every drill, every practice."

"What they've taken out of it is that they can't get content. They can't take plays off."

Quarterback Brody Grantham built on a solid junior campaign this year, rushing for 1,650 yards and 31 scores. He also passed for 770 yards and 12 touchdowns.

"Our quarterback is 6-2, 205. He's more like a running back that can throw," Sheehan said. "He's a smart player."

Faulkton head coach Shayne Geditz noted that containing Grantham is the key to having a chance against the Chargers.

"Everything goes through Grantham," he said. "He's a 200-pounder that comes at you with a full head of steam."

Junior Ryder Grantham (631 yards, 11 TD), senior Austin Niemann (467 yards, 11 TD) and freshman Chance Neimann (472 yards, 5 TD) have given the Chargers multiple options in the run game. Ryder Grantham (11-300 yards, 5 TD) and Tristen Leiseth (6-216, 4 TD) have been primary options in the pass game.

"We spread everyone out,"

Sheehan said. "We like to run misdirection, get people moving. But we also want to come out and play physical."

Faulkton had its own motivation losses, losing at Wall last year and Harding County two years ago, both in the quarterfinals.

"Getting a home game (in the quarterfinals) was a big motivator," Geditz said. "To win in the second round, we needed to be able to host it to give ourselves a shot."

Trojans quarterback Kurt Beidler has thrown for 1,226 yards, completing over 70 percent of his attempts and connecting for 15 touchdowns. Cole Baloun has 29 catches for 606 yards and nine scores, with Jacob McCloud (12-182, 2 TD) and Carson Ortmeier (11-126, 2 TD) also providing top targets for the senior.

On the ground, Darin Wieseler has rushed for 1,827 yards and 29 touchdowns. Ortmeier has 85 carries for 445 yards and six scores.

"Our goal is to be about 60/40 (run to pass), but we don't get there every night," Geditz said. "We have a quarterback that throws well, which takes the pressure off the run game. It's a nice mix to have."

Lane Meyer (70 tackles, 11 TFL, 5.5 sacks), Jack Aesoph (62 tackles, 6 TFL, 4 INT) and Wieseler (54 tackles, 5 TFL) lead the Faulkton defense.

"We play a 4-3 and have quite a few guys that make plays," Geditz said.

Brody (101 tackles, 13 TFL) and Grantham (90 tackles, 4 TFL) lead the Charger defense. Kale Stieg (84 tackles, 16 TFL, 9 sacks) and Leiseth (82 tackles, 17 TFL, 13 sacks) have been good at applying defensive pressure. Ben Koisti has three of Hamlin's 11 interceptions.

"Our defense flows around," Sheehan said. "They have fun. They really like to play physical on defense."

Finishing drives will be key for the Chargers, Sheehan said.

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Gregory's Robert Vomacka, 2, picks off a W-WS-SC pass during the Class 9AA football championship game on Thursday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Vomacka returned the interception for a touchdown, helping the Gorillas to a 31-8 victory.

Gregory Powers Past W-WS-SC For 9AA Title

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — The last time the Gregory Gorillas hoisted a state championship trophy the current seniors were two years old.

In short, it's been a while. Snapping a 16-year title drought thanks to a punishing defense, the Gorillas defeated Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 31-8 in Thursday afternoon's Class 9AA state title game at the DakotaDome.

In capping off a perfect season, the Gorillas (12-0) won the school's first championship since the 1998 crown in Class 11B.

"It probably won't set in for a few days, I'm not going to lie," head coach Brian Allmendinger said. "It feels great."

"I feel so happy for these seniors, they're awesome, and they really deserve it."

Those seniors got things rolling early for Gregory, which built a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter. Senior Lukas Kirkely got the scoring started with a 36-yard field goal and senior Jonah Beck added a 5-yard scoring run late in the first quarter.

That's when the seniors gave way to underclassmen for the Gorillas.

Sophomore Robert Vomacka returned an interception 46 yards for a touchdown — a "game-changer," Allmendinger later said — early in the second quarter and he closed the first half with a 5-yard touchdown run.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Gregory quarterback Kurt Braun looks for a receiver down the field during the Class 9AA championship football game on Thursday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

Freshman Jayd VanDerWerff capped the scoring with a 2-yard run late in the third quarter, and by that point, the Gorillas were in sight of their goal after two straight years of semifinal losses.

"Being so close the last two years, we knew we could do it, and we knew we had to do it," said senior quarterback Kurt Braun, who earned Joe Robbie MVP honors after rushing for 96 yards and passing for 93.

The biggest advantage for the Gorillas, though, was its defense.

Gregory only out-gained the Blackhawks 276-198 in total yardage, but limited

them to 3-of-12 on third down and 1-of-5 on fourth down.

"They were able to make some big plays, and basically we weren't able to make those big plays," said WWSSC coach Jason Kolousek, whose team finished 10-2.

Especially early, when the game was still up for grabs, the Gregory defensive line made life miserable for the Blackhawks. The Gorillas had two sacks and an interception over the first two drives for WWSSC.

The Blackhawks, though, responded with a 60-yard touchdown run from Austin Messmer and a two-point conversion to get within 17-8. But

Gregory 31, W-WS-SC 8

46 The Big Number

The yardage on sophomore Robert Vomacka's interception return for touchdown, which stretched Gregory's lead to 17-0.

that's all they would manage. "Our defense, I thought, holding them to those scores and letting us burn some clock and us scoring on top of that was huge," Allmendinger said. "It was the key to the game."

Gregory will graduate 11 seniors, while WWSSC graduates 10.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

REGULAR SEASON			
W-WS-SC	Gregory	W-WS-SC	Gregory
0	0	0	0
9	4	8	0

FIRST QUARTER			
W-WS-SC	Gregory	W-WS-SC	Gregory
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

SECOND QUARTER			
W-WS-SC	Gregory	W-WS-SC	Gregory
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

THIRD QUARTER			
W-WS-SC	Gregory	W-WS-SC	Gregory
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

FOURTH QUARTER			
W-WS-SC	Gregory	W-WS-SC	Gregory
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS										
RUSHING:	WWS, Messmer	11-95, Ochsner	7-22, Kingsbury	7-18, Bechen	2-(minus 5), Gregory, Braun	19-96, Beck	16-59, Vomacka	4-8, VanDerWerff	1-2.	
PASSING:	WWS, Kingsbury	12-22-1, 68	yards; Braun	5-10-0, 93	yards; Vomacka	1-1-0, 18	yards; McCance	0-1-0, 0	yards.	
RECEIVING:	WWS, Messmer	5-30, Bechen	4-20, Womstadt	2-19, Moore	1-(minus 1), Gregory, Kafka	1-30, Vomacka	1-27, Beck	2-22, Campbell	1-18, Juracek	1-14.