

# Roosevelt Looks To Derail Patriot Repeat Performance

## Lincoln Takes 21-Game Win Streak Into Tonight's Class 11AAA Final

**BY JEREMY HOECK**

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VERMILLION — The Sioux Falls Roosevelt Rough Riders wanted their chance at revenge. And now they will have that opportunity.

In a rematch of last year's final, the Riders will face defending champion Sioux Falls Lincoln in tonight's (Saturday) Class 11AAA state championship at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

Meeting the Patriots (10-0), winners of 21 straight games, was what Roosevelt (9-1) wanted since last year's showdown in Vermillion and even more so after their regular season matchup — which Lincoln won 35-27.

"It's been kind of a weird season, with some injuries and some other issues that made it more difficult than it should have been," Roosevelt head coach Kim Nelson said, "but our guys have rallied."

The Riders have reached the title game again despite the early-season loss of standout quarterback Taryn Christion — a South Dakota State commit.

In nine games, junior backup Jett Thune has passed for 848 yards and 13 touchdowns, with four interceptions. He

also scored eight times on the ground. "He's a good athlete, he's fit in with the scheme we've wanted to use," Nelson said. "We didn't have to change too much. It's been kind of seamless that way."

Senior Jake Bear is Roosevelt's top rusher with 948 yards and 11 touchdowns, while senior Chase Vinatieri has a team-high 39 receptions for 621 yards and seven scores.

But it's been on defense where the Riders have made perhaps the biggest gains, Nelson said.

Roosevelt at times has as many as two seniors on the field, which means newcomers to the varsity level have been carrying the load and getting more comfortable with the speed of the game.

"By now they better be pretty comfortable with that speed," Nelson joked.

Sophomore Carter Carstens and junior Manny Christopher have both recorded 5.5 sacks for the defense, while junior Justin Mueller has a team-high four interceptions (two for touchdowns).

Roosevelt will need all the help it can get to slow down the speedy Patriots, whose biggest offensive and defensive weapons are seniors.

Senior quarterback Isaiah Roach has

passed for 2,084 yards with 18 touchdowns (and seven interceptions), while senior running back Braxton Large leads the team with 142 carries for 1,132 yards and 23 touchdowns. He has nearly double the attempts from the second-highest, at 79.

"Their running game is just so efficient," Nelson said. "They do a lot of things and present a lot of problems. It's going to be a very physical game, we know that."

Lincoln also boasts a couple of play-making receivers. Senior Nickel Meyers has a team-high 63 receptions for 1,074 yards and seven touchdowns, while senior Paul Thamel has 28 grabs for 552 yards and six scores.

The Patriots' defense is led by senior Dylan Arntz who has 14 of the team's 35 sacks.

"It's the same team, same place, same time, but we're hoping for a different result," Nelson said. "We have to play better than last year, we know that. And I think we will."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## CLASS 11AAA CHAMPIONSHIP

**Roosevelt (9-1) vs. Lincoln (10-0)**

7:30 p.m. • Radio: KWSN-AM/FM, KSOU-FM • TV: SDPB

ROUGH RIDERS OFFENSE						PATRIOTS OFFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
C	55	Sam Denevan	6-0	220	Sr.	C	62	Austin Hauschild	6-2	235	Jr.
RG	75	Alex Denevan	5-10	200	So.	RG	77	Kyle Sim	6-0	270	Jr.
LG	72	Austin Boen	6-2	255	So.	LG	79	Ben Schilling	6-1	245	So.
RT	62	Alex Capell	6-0	215	Jr.	RT	76	Deyshon Davis	6-2	303	Jr.
LT	67	Hunter Tebben	6-1	255	Sr.	LT	71	Derek Peters	6-3	264	Sr.
or	70	Grant Schmidt	6-6	280	Sr.	TE	46	Austin Druze	6-1	202	Sr.
TE	12	Tyler Van Voorst	6-4	200	Sr.	SE	5	Nickel Meyers	6-4	186	Sr.
SE	4	Luke Peterson	5-11	175	Sr.	FL	15	Paul Thamel	6-1	186	Sr.
FL	6	Ryan Benson	5-9	180	Sr.	QB	8	Isiah Roach	6-1	183	Sr.
Slot	1	Chase Vinatieri	6-2	195	Sr.	RB	32	Braxton Large	5-10	194	Sr.
RB	23	Jake Bear	5-9	175	Sr.	FB	28	Lucas Heikamp	5-9	181	Sr.
QB	5	Jett Thune	6-2	170	Jr.						
ROUGH RIDERS DEFENSE						PATRIOTS DEFENSE					
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
DT	86	Sam Greer	6-1	220	So.	DT	52	Matto Standing Soldier	6-2	230	Jr.
DE	32	Manny Christopher	5-10	210	Jr.	DE	55	Michael Greenfield	6-2	215	Sr.
TE	43	Tyler Wildes	5-11	165	Sr.	DE	57	Dylan Arntz	6-4	214	Sr.
DT	48	Robert Casters	6-1	230	Jr.	LB	33	Ethan Schilling	6-0	191	Sr.
LB	44	Plearen Evans	5-10	210	So.	OLB	32	Braxton Large	5-10	194	Sr.
LB	28	Sean Powell	6-0	195	Jr.	OLB	43	Dalton Jones	6-1	212	Sr.
LB	41	Andrew Batt	6-0	195	Jr.	FS	12	Mason Nelson	6-0	171	Jr.
SS	10	Nathan Durfee	6-0	185	Jr.	SS	9	Nolan Burchill	6-1	170	Jr.
SS	25	Dan Larson	6-0	175	Sr.	FC	5	Nickel Meyers	6-4	186	Sr.
FB	21	Cole Schroedermeier	5-10	165	Jr.	CB	7	Ned Sudbeck	5-11	165	Sr.
CB	1	Nickel Meyers	6-4	186	Sr.						

### TEAM LEADERS

**RUSHING:** Jake Bear 140-948 yards, 11 TD; Jett Thune 86-339, 8 TD; Taryn Christian 62-641, 6 TD

**PASSING:** Jett Thune 52-697, 848 yards, 14 TD, 4 INT; Taryn Christian 42-695, 755 yards, 4 TD, 2 INT

**RECEIVING:** Chase Vnater 36-921 yards, 8 TD; Tyler Van Voorst 16-371, 4 TD; Jake Bear 14-213, 3 TD; Ren Bensch 10-145, 1 TD

**DEFENSE:** Sean Powell 70 tackles, 3 sacks, 1 INT; Andrew Batt 53 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 INT; Nathan Durfee 49 tackles, 2 INT; Carter Castens 30 tackles, 5 sacks; Jett Thune 28 tackles, 1 sack, 1 INT

### TEAM LEADERS

**RUSHING:** Braxton Large 142-1, 132 yards, 23 TD; Isaac Roach 139-74, 2 TD; Jett Thune 86-339, 8 TD

**PASSING:** Isaiah Roach 127-186, 2,084 yards, 18 TD, 7 INT

**RECEIVING:** Nickel Meyers 63-1,014 yards, 7 TD; Paul Thane 28-562, 6 TD; Austin Druze 9-117, 2 TD

**DEFENSE:** Dalton Jones 74 tackles, 4 TFL; Braxton Large 54 tackles, 8 TFL, 4 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries

**TECHNICAL:** 10 penalties, 145 yards, 14 technical fouls

**Soldier 4 sacks; Michael Greenfield 4 sacks; Kieran Denney 4 INT; Nolan Burchill 3 INT**

TEAM LEADERS											TEAM LEADERS										
<b>RUSHING:</b> Jake Bear 140-948 yards, 11 TD; Jett Thune 88-439, 8 TD; Taryn Christion 63-421, 6 TD											<b>RUSHING:</b> Braxton Large 142-1,132 yards, 23 TD; Isaiah Roach 79-474, 2 TD; Lucas Heikamp 29-257, 2 TD										
<b>PASSING:</b> Jett Thune 52-97, 848 yards, 14 TD, 4 INT; Taryn Christion 42-69, 755 yards, 4 TD, 2 INT											<b>PASSING:</b> Isaiah Roach 127-186, 2,084 yards, 18 TD, 7 INT										
<b>RECEIVING:</b> Chase Vinatieri 39-621 yards, 8 TD; Tyler Van Voorst 16-371, 4 TD; Jake Bear 14-213, 3 TD; Ryan Benson 11-103											<b>RECEIVING:</b> Nickel Meyers 63-1,074 yards, 7 TD; Paul Thamel 28-552, 6 TD; Austin Druze 9-117, 2 TD										
<b>DEFENSE:</b> Sean Powell 70 tackles, 3.5 sacks, 1 INT; Andrew Batt 53 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 INT; Nathan Durfee 49 tackles, 2 INT; Carter Carstens 30 tackles, 5.5 sacks											<b>DEFENSE:</b> Dalton Jones 74 tackles, 4 TFL; Braxton Large 54 tackles, 8 TFL, 4 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries; Dylan Arntz 46 tackles, 14 sacks, 4 TFL; Matto Standing Soldier 4 sacks; Michael Greenfield 4 sacks; Kieran Denney 4 INT; Nolan Burchill 3 INT										

# Parkston Trojans Roll To First 11B Title

**BY JEREMY HOECK**

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VERMILLION — A year after coming up six points short on the state's biggest stage, the Parkston Trojans found themselves in another tight game on the DakotaDome turf.

This time, though, they scratched out a victory. By three points.

Capturing the school's first-ever football championship, Parkston held off St. Thomas More 24-21 in Friday afternoon's Class 11B title game thriller in Vermillion.

Winless in their previous three trips to the dome, the Trojans capped off a perfect 12-0 season in front of a statewide audience — and plenty of orange and purple-clad supporters.

"It feels good, not just for the Parkston Trojans, but for the whole community," said senior quarterback Wes Dvorak, who earned Joe Robbie MVP honors.

"They love it and we love it when they come support us."

The Trojans were finally able to hoist the championship trophy after losing in the finals in 1991, 2001 and 2013.

"I can't give these guys enough credit, they've done a great job all year long," head coach Eric Norden said. "We've played as a team and I think that was a big key tonight."

Parkston also needed a couple breaks to go its way, as well.

St. Thomas More (11-2) got 303 passing yards from senior quarterback Matthew Eastmo, and recorded an interception

## Parkston 24, St. Thomas More 21

### The Big Number

**3** Parkston Trojans quarterback Wes Dvorak, was named Joe Robbie MVP of the game after rushing for 113 yards, but more importantly for making a field goal at the end of the first half — the difference in the game.

with 1:40 remaining to give it-self to tie or win the game.

Three plays after getting to within the Parkston 17-yard line, the Cavaliers lined up for a 34-yard field goal which would have tied the game.

Sophomore Luke Julian's kick, though, sailed wide left, and the Trojans kneeled once for the win.

"We had all the confidence in the world in our kicker, he's been kicking great all year," St. Thomas More head coach Wayne Sullivan said, "but again you're talking about a sophomore, that's a lot of pressure."

"He's going to get better in the next two years. He's going to be there when we need him."

The Cavaliers — who embraced the underdog role, Sullivan said later — got 303 yards through the air from senior quarterback Matthew Eastmo. He had touchdown passes to Travis Mills and P.J. Freidel, and also scored on a 1-yard run.

Ultimately, though, the game was decided on a field goal.

Dvorak drilled a record 50-yard field goal just ahead of the halftime horn to give the Trojans a 17-14 lead — a 3-point cushion that would hold up.



"We knew St. Thomas More has a great aerial attack, a great quarterback, and reads things well, but that's football," Norden said, "it comes down to that kind of stuff."

The game was tied 14-14 late in the second quarter before Dvorak stepped into a 50-yard field goal, which would have been good from at least 55 — Sullivan, though, was screaming for a timeout he wouldn't get.

"The kid made a great kick," Sullivan said, "and how many high schoolers make 50 yard field goals, and that's what it came down to."

In addition to that field goal, Dvorak would finish with 19 rushes for 113 yards and a touchdown, and added five tackles and an interception on defense.

He is one of 13 seniors who will graduate from a program that made two consecutive title game appearances.

"All these guys have



worked hard all season and even tonight they played team football," Norden said. "It's just a great feeling, and I can't wait to share this with those guys."

PARKSTON 24, ST. THOMAS MORE 21										
ST. THOMAS MORE	0	14	0	7	—	21				
PARKSTON	7	10	0	7	—	24				
<b>First Quarter</b>										
Parkston-Simmer 1 run (Dvorak kick), 2:38.										
<b>Second Quarter</b>										
STM-Eastmo 1 run (Julian kick), 7:46.										

Parkston-Bietz 3 run (Dvorak kick), 1:08.  
STM-Mills 16 pass from Eastmo (Julian kick), :39.  
Parkston-Dvorak 50 FG, :00.

FOURTH QUARTER										
Parkston-Dvorak 4 run (Dvorak kick), 9:31.										
STM-P.J. Freidel 56 pass from Eastmo (Julian kick), 6:37.										
FIRST DOWNS	13	19								
RUSHES-YARDS	16-22	55-248								
PASSING YARDS	303	35								
PASSES	16-31-2	2-10-2								
PUNTS-YARDS	3-43	3-35								
PENALTIES-YARDS	3-19 7-48									
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS										

JAMES CIMBUREK/P&D  
**The Parkston Trojans rolled to their first ever 11B South Dakota Football title Friday, with a 24-21 victory. Top: Parkston Trojan players hold up the Class 11B championship trophy after their 24-21 victory over St. Thomas More in the final on Friday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Left: Parkston's Wes Dvorak is pushed out of bounds by a pair of St. Thomas More defenders during their Class 11B championship football game on Friday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.**

RUSHING: STM, Eastmo 9-9, Aanderud 4-7, Mills 2-7, Fees 1-minus 1). Parkston, Dvorak 19-113, Bietz 14-60, Semmler 18-54, Reiff 2-19, Rands 1-2.  
PASSING: STM, Eastmo 16-31-2, 303 yards. Parkston, Rands 2-4-0, 35 yards; Dvorak 0-5-1, 0 yards; Konrad 0-1-1, 0 yards.

RECEIVING: STM, Aanderud 6-134, Keegan 4-58, Freidel 1-56, Mills 3-41, Thurmes 2-14.

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