# **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 well 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 jun-

ior 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 effi-cient," 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 playmaking 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.

Dylan Arntz who has 14 of the team's 35 sacks.

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.'

ter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.vankton.net.

**CLASS 11AAA CHAMPIONSHIP** 

Roosevelt (9-1) vs. Lincoln (10-0) 7:30 p.m. • Radio: KWSN-AM/FM, KSOO-FM • TV: SDPB PATRIOTS OFFENSE ROUGH RIDERS OFFENSE Name Sam Denevan Alex Denevan Ht 6-0 5-10 Wt 220 200 255 215 255 280 200 175 180 195 175 170 Pos C RG LG or RT **No** 55 Pos C RG LG RT LT TE SE No Name Wt 235 270 245 303 264 202 186 Yr Jr. So. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Ht 6-2 6-0 6-1 6-2 6-3 6-1 6-4 6-1 6-1 Austin Hauschild Kyle Sim 62 77 75 So. Austin Boen Alex Capell Alex Capell Hunter Tebben 6-2 6-0 6-1 6-6 So. Jr. Jr. Sr. Sr. 79 Ben Schilling 76 71 46 Deyshon Davis Derek Peters 62 70 67 Austin Druse Grant Schmidt 6-4 5-11 5-9 6-2 5-9 Nickel Mevers 12 1 Tyler Van Voorst Luke Peterson FL QB RB FB Paul Thanel Isaiah Roach Ryan Benson Chase Vinatieri Braxton Large 5-10 194 Sr. Sr. 28 Lucas Heitkan 181 23 Jake Bear PATRIOTS DEFENSE Jett Thune 6-2 Name Ht Mato Standing Soldier 6-2 Pos DT DT DE DE ILB OLB ROUGH RIDERS DEFENSE Yr Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Jr. 
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52 Name Sam Greer Manny Christophe Tyler Wildes Carter Castens Yr So. No 86 32 9 48 44 85 57 46 6-2 6-4 6-1 6-0 Michael Greenfield 215 214 Dylan Arntz Austin Druse Jr. Sr. So. So. 202 191 194 33 32 Ethan Schilling Piercen Evans 5-10 Braxton Large OLB FS SS FC LC Sean Powell Andrew Batt Nathan Durfee Dalton Jones Mason Nelson 6-1 6-0 6-1 212 171 170 28 41 43 Nolan Burchill Nickel Meyers Ned Sudbeck 25 21 Dan Larson 6-4 5-11 186 Cole Schroedermeier 5-10 Justin Mueller TEAM LEADERS

### TEAM LEADERS

RUSHING: Braxton Large 142-1,132 yards, 23 TD; Isa-iah Roach 79-474, 2 TD; Lucas Heitkamp 29-257, 2 TD PASSING: Isaiah Roach 127-186, 2,084 yards, 18 TD,

RECEIVING: Nickel Meyers 63-1,074 yards, 7 TD; Paul Thanel 28-552, 6 TD; Austin Druse 9-117, 2 TD DEFENSE: 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; Mato 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 Dakota-Dome 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 purpleclad 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 guvs enough credit, they've done a great job all year long," head coach Eric Norden said. "We've played as a team and I

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 itself 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



"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 50yard 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 Dvorak would finish with



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.

The Patriots' defense is led by senior

"It's the same team, same place, same CB

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RUSHING: Jake Bear 140-948 yards, 11 TD; Jett Thune 88-439, 8 TD; Taryn Christion 63-421, 6 TD PASSING: Jett Thune 52-97, 848 yards, 14 TD, 4 INT; Taryn Christion 42-69, 755 yards, 4 TD, 2 INT RECEIVING: Chase Vinatieri 39-621 yards, 8 TD; 7 July Van Voorst 16-371, 4 TD; Jake Beark 14-213, 3 TD; Ryan Benson 11-103

TE SE FL Slot RB QB

Pos DT DT DE DE LB

LB LB SS FS

DEFENSE: 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;

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

Ultimately, though, the

game was decided on a field goal Dvorak drilled a record 50yard field goal just ahead of

the halftime horn to give the Trojans a 17-14 lead — a 3point cushion that would hold

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 PARKSTON ...... nler 1 run (Dvorak kick), 2:38. Second Quarter 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-Dvork 4 run (Dvorak kick), 9:31. STM-P.J. Freidel 56 pass from Eastmo (Julian

| ICK), 0.37.               |           |          |  |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|--|
|                           | STT. MORE | PARKSTON |  |
| IRST DOWNS                | 13        | 19       |  |
| RUSHES-YARDS              | 16-22     | 55-248   |  |
| ASSING YARDS              | 303       | 35       |  |
| PASSES                    | 16-31-2   | 2-10-2   |  |
| PUNTS-YARDS               | 3-43      | 3-35     |  |
| PENALTIES-YARDS 3-19 7-48 |           |          |  |
| INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS     |           |          |  |
|                           |           |          |  |

Fees 1-(minus 1). Parkston, Dvorak 19-113, Bietz 2-7, Pees 1-(minus 1), Parkston, Doroak 19-113, Dielz 14-60, Semmeir 18-54, Rastiff 2-19, Rands 1-2. PASSING: STM, Eastmo 16-31-2, 303 yards. Park-ston, 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, Thurness 2-14

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

## Warriors Move Into Neb. State Class C2 **Finals**

LINCOLN, Neb. - Maria Wortmann pounded out a match-high 28 kills to lead Crofton to a 25-21, 15-25, 25-21, 25-21 victory over Guardian Angels Central Catholic in the semifinals of the Nebraska State Class C2 Volleyball Tournament, played on Friday at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The victory sends the Lady Warriors (29-0) into the state championship match against Freeman (32-0), a 1 p.m. start at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Guardian Angels and Hastings St. Cecelia will play for third place at Lincoln East High School.

Kelsey Sanger had 13 kills and 18 digs for Crofton. Allison Arens had eight kills and a team-best 19 digs. Allison Tramp posted 23 assists and 10 digs. Brittany Guenther had 22 assists and Breanna Allen had 14 digs in the victory.

For GACC, Jenny Knobbe led the way with 12 kills and eight blocks. Kathleen Stueter had 11 kills and 18 digs. Jamie Petz finished with 38 assists and 17 digs. Morgan Bracht had eight kills and 17 digs, and Kate Knobbe had 13 digs in the effort.

**USD Women Take 7th In NCAA Midwest Regional** PEORIA, Ill.-Behind junior Amber Eichkorn's individual 10th-place finish at the NCAA Midwest Regional meet on Friday, the South Dakota women outperformed their 10th-place ranking to finish seventh, the team's highest since their 14th-place finish in 2012. The Coyote men finished 19th.

Eichkorn crossed the finish line in a new career best time of 20 minutes, 30.2 seconds for 6,000 meters. The Wichita, Kan., native ran with the chase pack throughout the race, while UMKC's Courtney Frerichs was the eventual winner of the women's race in 19:58.7. Eichkorn's 10th-place finish is the highest finish by a Coyote at the regional meet and earned her all-region honors for finishing in the top 25.

Continuing as South Dakota's second runner across the line, junior Katie Wetzstein ran a new career best time of 20:59.0 for 32nd place.

Freshman Bethany Kozak

and junior Kelsey Barrett finished together in 52nd and 53rd, respectively. Kozak clocked in at a new career best of 21:20.4. Barrett ran two even-split halves during the race to pass 52 runners in the final three kilometers. The junior ran almost a minute faster than her previous personal record and set a new career best of 21:21.0.

The Coyotes' anchor, freshman Bailey Oettel, finished 97th as she dropped more than 20 seconds off her personal record. Oettel crossed the line in 21:41.2.

Sophomores Nicole Schmidt and Jess Feldman rounded out South Dakota's runners. Schmidt ran a career best of 21:49.2 and Feldman finished in 23:04.4.

The South Dakota women tallied 244 points for seventh place. Iowa State and Minnesota placed first and second, respectively, to capture the automatic berths to the NCAA Championships. Junior Mubarik Musa paced the men with a time of

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30:52.5 for 10,000 meters. He finished in 38th place. Oklahoma State's Kirubel Erassa won the men's race in 30:09.6.

The next best finishers for the men were junior Isaac Allen and senior Brant Haase, who took 58th and 59th, re-

spectively. Allen finished in 31:06.3 and Haase followed in 31:07.0.

Freshman Brice Cowman crossed the line at 33:07.7 for 175th place. Redshirt-sophomore Mach Dojiok rounded out the red and white scorers

in 192nd with a 33:46.5 effort. On the men's side, Oklahoma State and Tulsa grabbed the automatic berths to the NCAA Championships held in Terre Haute, Ind., on Nov. 22



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