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# Richland wins 'smoke bowl'

By BILL PURCELL  
Herald Sports Writer

Any notion the Richland Bombers' fourth-place ranking on the AP prep football poll was an exaggeration went up in smoke — literally — at Kennewick Memorial Field Friday night.

With five minutes to play, a fire broke out underneath the cement superstructure on the Kennewick side of the field. There were no flames to be seen, but the smoke lay so thick and heavy on the still night air that the visibility went to zero — Kennewick's score at the time — and most of the home-town fans went home.

The stadium was a mad house for 15 minutes.

Kennewick fans could argue it had been a mad house for much longer than that. The Lions lost 27-7.

The sound mixture of fire sirens, cheerleaders, sousaphones and a bass drum, and the visual panoply of milling fans and players (orange-and-black, green-and-gold) moving within the billowing gray glob, were chaotic.

In deference to Kennewick coach Howard Roth, who wanted to avoid a shutout, the game was not called. So, after the smoke had subsided enough for the referees to see what was going on, the game concluded with the murky anticlimax of a Kennewick touchdown with 32 seconds to play.

The momentary inspiration that set up that touchdown, a 62-yard pass from Dave Williams to Ron Williamson, is the only one worth recounting for the Lions. Otherwise, they played miserably.

An astounding statistic gives you a fair idea of how easily Richland won its fourth-straight game: the Lions "amassed" minus-18 yards rushing, the Bombers 270.

J. D. Covington, the Richland coach, could divide the game ball among as many players as he chose. However, John Richardson must get first mention.

Richardson, a 6-foot, 175-pound senior, is the Bombers' defensive captain. He is supposed to play in the defensive secondary, but often as not he was to be found in the Kennewick backfield.

Richardson turned in the gem of the game when he smelled out the fourth-down, fake-punt routine in the fourth quarter and dropped Bob Cheek for a 16-yard loss.

Not until the issue had been decided and the Richland secondary reserves were called into the game, did Kennewick enjoy any passing success. Gaebe completed one of nine

attempts for 19 yards and threw interceptions picked off by Richardson, Scott Feaster and Steve King. Williams, the better passer, completed seven of 12 for 146 yards — all in the fourth quarter with the Lions trailing 27-0.

Williamson caught four passes for 95 yards.

Richland running back Pat Booth had an exceptional game thanks to his offensive linemen and rushed for 130 yards in 17 carries (7.7 average).

In fairness to the Lions, now 2-3 on the season, their own mistakes were more critical than Richland's physical superiority, at least in the first half.

The Lions started tense. Their opening kickoff return was minus-five yards, and Gaebe called the first signals of the game from his own two-yard line.

Two running plays produced three yards so Kennewick gambled with a third-down quick kick.

The Bombers recovered the ball on the Kennewick 38 and slowly moved to the 11. With Richland fourth-and-three at that point, the Lions were whistled offside. The Bombers then had a first-and-10. Two more offside penalties helped bring the ball to the one-yard line, from where quarterback Jeff Marcum plunged over for the first score.

And so it went for Kennewick: a clipping penalty halted a drive to the Richland 28 in the first quarter, and a personal foul penalty stopped a Kennewick series that reached the Richland 28 in the fourth. In between, an interception led to a Richland score in the second quarter, and a lost fumble led to a Richland score in the third quarter.

The Lions hurt themselves, too, with poor tackling. The worst offense allowed Booth to break loose on a 62-yard scoring romp early in the second quarter.

Also scoring touchdowns for Richland were Steve Ard on a three-yard run in the second quarter set up by Booth's 15-yard bang over right guard, and Brad Gegen on a 10-yard scoring pass from Marcum in the fourth quarter.

Gaebe scored Kennewick's touchdown, following the long pass to Williamson, from one-yard out.

Richland	7	14	6	0-27
Kennewick	0	0	0	7-7

R—Marcum 1 run (Grubb kick)  
R—Booth 62 run (Grubb kick)  
R—Ard 3 run (Grubb kick)  
R—Gegen 10 pass from Marcum (kick failed)  
K—Gaebe 1 run (Bo. Cheek kick)

	R	K
First downs	17	7
Net yards rushing	270	-18
Net yards passing	62	165
Passing	4-13-1	8-21-3
Penalties	5-35	5-42
Punts	1-35	2-27.5
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-1

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**Rushing**  
Richland—Ard 14-68, Booth 17-130, Feaster 2-3, Marcum 3-3, Richardson 1-1, Meeks 5-8, Grubb 3-17, Bierlein 5-40.  
Kennewick—Bi. Cheek 5-9, Gaebe 4-(-20), Gallegos 3-4, Bo. Cheek 2-(-15), Goforth 3-7, Williams 1-(-8), Richardson 1-2, Cejka 1-3.

**Passing**  
Richland—Marcum 3-6-1, 31 yards; Bierlein 1-7-0, 31 yards.  
Kennewick—Gaebe 1-9-3, 19 yards; Williams 7-12-0, 146 yards.

**Receiving**  
Richland—Richardson 1-12, Feaster 1-31, Prichard 1-9, Gegen 1-10.  
Kennewick—Williams 4-95, Phillips 1-30, Neyens 1-4, Cook 1-17, Goforth 1-19.

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tackles for Kahlotus. Steve Blackwell, who scored a touchdown and rushed for 61 yards in 18 carries, was in on 16 tackles.

A run by Craig Redinger and a pass from Steve Lee to Randy Reed gave Burbank a 13-6 triumph at Touchet.