

# SPORTS

Sunday, September 10, 2017

## Wenatchee football beaten by Richland

BY BRIAN DESHAZO

*World sports staff*

RICHLAND — A week after nearly pulling off a season-opening comeback win against Southridge, the Wenatchee Panthers were simply no match for the defending 4A state runner-up Richland Bombers in a 56-8 loss at Fran Rish Stadium.

After the two teams traded three-and-outs on their opening possessions, the Bombers began lighting up the scoreboard on a 15-yard touchdown pass from senior signal-caller Cade Jensen to wide receiver Sammy Cervantes.

After recovering an onside kick, the Bombers offense took little time doubling the lead. Jensen completed a quick lateral to running back Parker McCary, who darted in from 15 yards out for a 14-0 Bombers lead.

Richland continued making quick work of their former Columbia Basin Big Nine rivals, scoring 27 point in the opening quarter alone. The Bombers added another score two plays into the second quarter on a six-yard run by senior Tyler Fishback.

Wenatchee senior quarterback Austin Blakney finally got the Panthers on the board on a five-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Darius Carlson with 8:11 remaining in the second quarter. The Panthers successfully converted the two-point attempt, but the men in purple still had an enormous mountain to climb in the stadium affectionately known as the Bomber Bowl.

The climb only got steeper when Richland answered with a two-play scoring drive, which culminated in McCary's fourth touchdown of the contest and a 42-8 Bombers' lead.

Trailing 49-8 late in the first half, Blakney led the offense on a 49-yard drive in seven plays to the Richland 16-yard line. The eighth play ended in disaster for the Panthers, with Richland cornerback Adam Weissenfels returning a pick-six 87 yards for the game's final touchdown.

Carlson turned in Wenatchee's most effective receiving night, hauling in eight receptions for 69 yards and a touchdown to lead the team for the second consecutive week. Blakney finished the game 18-for-34 with 125 yards passing and three interceptions.

The Panthers offense struggled mightily on the ground, rushing for only 19 yards on 13 attempts. The defense allowed 404 yards on 59 total plays, including 258 through the air.

Wenatchee (0-2) returns to the Apple Bowl on Friday for the first of three consecutive home games. The Panthers host Kelowna, British Columbia with kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

**Highlights:** Wenatchee — Passing: Blakney (18-34, 125 yds, 3 INT). Rushing: Blakeney (3 car, 13 yds), Michael Seims (3 car, 13 yds). Receiving: Carlson (8 rec, 69 yds, TD), Riley Kunz (6 rec, 32 yds), Dillon Rublaitus (2 rec, 17 yds), Mason Brown (2 rec, 14 yds), Spencer Rickel (2 rec, 8 yds).



**Richland 56,  
Wenatchee 8**

**Friday**

**Next:** Richland: vs. Kennewick, **Friday, 7 p.m.**; Wenatchee: vs. Kelowna, B.C., **Friday, 7 p.m.**

**Sports Editor**  
**Jarrod Peterson**  
(509) 664-7157  
peterson@wenatcheeworld.com