

Blue Devils fall to Richland, 39-6

Wa-Hi forces the Mid-Columbia Conference powerhouse into a battle.

By HECTOR del CASTILLO
of The Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

Edwin Romero-Virrey broke free for a 50-yard touchdown run to put Walla Walla High School's football team on the scoreboard with about five minutes left to play, but the Blue Devils were already well on their way to becoming the latest victim of Mid-Columbia Conference powerhouse Richland.

The undefeated Bombers denied Wa-Hi's hopes for an upset and handed the Blue Devils a 39-6 loss on a cold Friday night here at Borleske Stadium.

Blue Devils coach Eric Hisaw commended his players for making Richland (7-0 overall record) fight for each yard it gained here. Earlier this season, the Bombers implemented the 40-point mercy rule in four consecutive games as they outscored those opponents a combined 230-36.

Wa-Hi, instead, forced several Richland starters to keep going for 48 minutes.

Mid-Columbia Conference		
Football standings		
	W	L
Richland	5	0
Chiawana	4	1
Kamiakin	4	1
Hanford	3	2
Walla Walla	2	3
Southridge	2	3
Kennewick	0	5
Pasco	0	5

Thursday's result		
Chiawana	84,	Pasco 0

Friday's results		
Richland	39,	Walla Walla 6
Kamiakin	35,	Kennewick 12
Hanford	49,	Southridge 47

Friday, Oct. 20 games		
Kamiakin at Walla Walla,	7 p.m.	
Chiawana at Richland,	7 p.m.	
Hanford at Pasco,	7 p.m.	
Kennewick at Southridge,	7 p.m.	

"That's a really good football team," Hisaw said of Richland. "It really, really is. They're No. 3 in the state and undefeated for a reason, but you know what? I told the kids I'm just absolutely so proud of their effort."

Wa-Hi's Jahmal Mangarero stopped the first Richland drive of the game by picking off a Cade Jensen pass at the Blue Devil 9-yard line. The Bombers quarterback had completed better than 64-percent of his passes (102 of 160) this season for more than 260 yards per game on average, but finished the night with

more a modest 188 yards on 11-of-27 passing.

Wa-Hi's Mason Knowles chalked the other two interceptions Jensen threw, including one to the end zone midway through the second quarter.

Another four Richland possessions ended with failed fourth-down tries, and the Blue Devils also forced the Bombers to punt twice.

"It's not a moral victory," Hisaw said. "But I'm just so proud of the way that they kept responding and choosing to not quit and play the next play as hard as they could."

Wa-Hi (2-5 overall, 2-3 in the league) will stay here for its next game, the last one at home this season, and host defending state Class 3A champion Kamiakin this coming Friday. The Braves (6-1, 4-1) defeated Kennewick, 35-12, this week to bounce back from a 33-0 loss at Richland.

The Blue Devils look to continue improving, and Hisaw feels the loss to Richland was by no means a step back.

"Their coach (Mike Neidhold) told me, 'It's always tough to come down here because you guys hit us in the mouth for four

quarters, and you never go away. That's the mark of a really good program,'" Hisaw said. "For him to say that to me as a great friend of mine, I appreciate that. I told the kids that's a great compliment to you because you do play hard and you don't quit."

"It's going to continue to bode well for the next week and the future," Hisaw added. "That's how you play good football."

Bombers 39, Blue Devils 6

Richland	18	14	7	0	—	39
Walla Walla	0	0	0	6	—	6

- Rich** — safety
- Rich** — safety
- Rich** — Piper 44 pass from Jensen (Weissenfels kick)
- Rich** — Whitby 4 run (Weissenfels kick)
- Rich** — Weissenfels 45 punt return (Weissenfels kick)
- Rich** — Jensen 1 run (Weissenfels kick)
- Wa-Hi** — Romero 50 run (kick blocked)

	Richland	Walla Walla
First downs	16	7
Rushes-yards	40-214	33-58
Passing yards	198	60
Passes (att-comp-int)	31-12-3	21-9-0
Punts-yards	2-76	9-282
Fumbles-lost	0-0	5-1
Penalties-yards	11-115	2-10

Individual statistics

RUSHING — Richland: McCary 9-102, Whitby 11-42, Fishback 5-29, Perryman 5-17, Jensen 2-18, Macduff 6-9, Johnson 1-0, Team 1-(-3). Walla Walla: Romero 10-59, Zehner 8-4, Knowles 2-0, Swant 1-(-2), Ongers 8-(-3).

PASSING — Richland: Jensen 11-27-188-1-3, Johnson 1-4-10-0-0. Walla Walla: Zehner 9-18-60-0-0, Swant 0-3-0-0-0.

RECEIVING — Richland: Cervantes 3-71, Fauchaux 4-43, Piper 2-50, Weissenfels 1-20, Fishback 1-10, McCary 1-4. Walla Walla: Knowles 5-38, Thompson 2-17, Ongers 1-3, Romero 1-2.