

HIGH SCHOOL

Football title games leave Dome

BY JEFF MORROW

Special to the Herald

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association announced its decision this week on high school state football championships will be on Dec. 7.

If football fans were hoping they could see all six state title games in one weekend, they're going to be deeply disappointed.

The WIAA executive board voted to have two title games at each of the following stadiums (all in Pierce County): Harry E. Lang Stadium in Lakewood; Mt. Tahoma Stadium in Tacoma; and Sparks Stadium in Puyallup.

All sites will host a noon title contest, with the second game to follow at 4 p.m.

At Lang Stadium: the 1A game will be a noon, while the 2B contest is at 4 p.m.

At Mt. Tahoma, it'll be the 1B title tilt at noon, and the 4A championship at 4 p.m.

And at Sparks, the 3A contest will kick off at noon, and the 2A game is at 4 p.m.

The WIAA believes that with all three stadiums within 13 miles of each other, fans – by paying one ticket price – can move around to all three sites.

The problem is a fan will only be able to watch two games, since everything is scheduled at the same time.

The state championships for football have been held in the Tacoma Dome since 1995 through last December. But rising rental rates and a revised seating configuration in the Dome convinced the board to move everything outside.

The WIAA also announced that if two teams from either Eastern or Central Washington end up meeting each other in a championship game, the game can be moved to Eastern or Central Washington if all parties agree to the site.

• Top numbers this past week for area football players: Kamiakin QB Henry Mercado with 415 passing yards and 6 TD passes in a 55-41 Braves' win over Hanford; Kamiakin RB Tuna Altahir with 209 yards rushing in that same game; Richland WR Ben Fewel had 14 catches and 165 yards receiving in the Bombers' 41-15 win over Sunnyside. It marks the third straight week Fewel had double-digit catch numbers and triple-digit yardage numbers; QB Bobby Holtzinger has shown the 8-man game isn't hard to adjust to. The DeSales quarterback rushed for 251 yards, scored three TDs, and passed for another in a Southeast B-8 win over Pomeroy on Friday, as the Irish are now 3-0.