



State AAA Action

Jay Floyd (42, left) moves the football in last night's State AAA High School Playoff action at Richland. Right, Eric Hirata (30)

gets set to tackle Mark Kafentzis on a punt return. LC fell to the Bombers 21-14. (Kevin Grossman photos.)

LC, Champions Out of AAA

By MERLE DERRICK
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RICHLAND, Wash.— They'll crown a new champion in the State AAA High School Football Playoffs this year, but they'll be doing it without the Lewis and Clark Tigers.

LC put up a stubborn battle here last night, but Richland's speed and strength prevailed 21-14 in their quarterfinal match on Bomber Field.

Meanwhile, in Seattle, the defending champ Blanchet team of Seattle was dethroned when it lost 23-20 to Sammamish.

In other AAA games last night, Foss of Tacoma got by Federal Way 14-10 and Kennedy edged Everett 7-0. It will be Richland against Kennedy and Foss vs. Sammamish in next week's semifinals.

Even in defeat, LC coach Jerry Connors was proud of the job by his Tigers. Riddled by injuries, the Tigers managed to hang close and even had a chance to pull it out in the late going.

"I was proud that we still had a shot at it despite a lot of injuries we had in the game," Connors said. "I think they (the Tigers) played with a lot of courage. I can't say enough for their heart."

Statistics heavily favored the Bombers and in the end the work of quarterback Ken Cole was the decisive factor. He ran for one touchdown and passed for another and generally guided the Bombers in fine style.

"They are a pretty good football team," Connors said of Richland, "but I thought we could win it. Their speed beat us."

Among those injured were Bill Tormey, Randy Harkey, Steve Bledsoe and Rick Pavey, plus others. At one time, LC got to the place where it had no replacement at the linebacker spot.

Pavey's injury was a major factor in the decision. He came off unnoticed as no replacement went in. Richland scored the winning touchdown on the play. Also, Tormey had been hurt just before the drive started as Richland quickly moved the ball on its

winning drive, helped much by his absence.

LC stunned the Bombers early by scoring on the first offensive drive. A 40-yard pass from Pete Boyd to Jim Gross sparked it and Jay Floyd ran it in from the 26.

LC then fell behind 14-7, but got even when Pavey picked up a fumble and went in from the 21. It was the second similar score for him in the Playoffs.

Rich O'Malley scored the winner from the five early in the fourth period. Richland twice fumbled in that final period, with LC recovering at the Bomber 32 and 25. The Tigers couldn't gain the first time, the second chance was lost on an interception.

Richland's defense was so tough in the second half that LC had only one first down and netted just 24 yards, all rushing.

Quick thrusts gave Richland its first two scores. Mark Culverhouse ran 69 yards to set up the first with Cole scoring from the five. Cole then hit O'Malley with a 24-yard touchdown pass.

Some rain fell during the game, but the evening generally was warm for November. A stiff wind blew in the second half to curb the passing.

In Seattle, one minute and 16 seconds remained when Sammamish's Lawrence Chandler went in from the one to oust Blanchet. Steve Ihli scored from the eight after a pass interception to win for Kennedy. Wyatt Baker had 189 yards and both touchdowns for Foss.

	LC	Rich
Yards Passing	73	131
Yards Rushing	111	246
Yards Lost Rushing	36	16
Net Yardage	148	361
Passing	2-7-1	7-15-2
First Downs Rushing	6	8
First Downs Passing	2	4
First Downs on Penalties	0	0
Punts	5-38	3-33
Return Yardage	48	38
Penalties	1-5	3-35
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Lewis and Clark	7 7 0 0-14	
Richland	7 7 0 7-21	
LC — Floyd 26 run (Nelson kick)		
RICH — Cole 5 run (Kitchen kick)		
RICH & O'Malley 24 pass from Cole (Kitchen kick)		
LC — Pavey 21 fumble return (Nelson kick)		
RICH — O'Malley 5 run (Kitchen kick)		
Foss	7 7 0 0-14	
Federal Way	0 0 0 10-10	
Foss—Baker 52-yard run (Bentley kick)		
Kick		
Foss—Baker 11-yard run (Bentley kick)		
FW—Bohrer 19-yard pass from Simons (Walford kick)		
FW—FG Walford 27		

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Kennedy	0	7	0	0-7
Everett	0	0	0	0-0
Ken—Ihli, 8 run (Callan kick)				
Sammamish	8	7	0	8-23
Blanchet	0	0	14	6-20
Sam—LeVeque 1 run (Chandler run)				
Sam—West 7 pass from LeVeque Zorich kick				
Bian—Vaculin 1 run (Steele run)				
Bian—Steele 30 run kick failed				
Bian—Steele 3 run pass failed				
Sam—Chandler 1 run Chandler pass from LeVeque				