

STATESMAN JOURNAL PREP FOOTBALL POWER RANKINGS

Teams show gridiron grit



Stayton's James Bridge (25) is taken down by Cascade defense on Sept. 29, at Stayton High School. Cascade won the matchup 58-14. The team now sits at the No. 6 spot on the Statesman Journal's power rankings for high school defenses in the Mid-Valley. MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Each week, Statesman Journal reporters Bill Poehler, Gary Horowitz and Pete Martini rank the best high school football players in Salem and the Mid-Willamette Valley.

QUARTERBACK

Sprague's Spencer Plant solidified his spot atop the Statesman Journal's quarterback power rankings with a five-touchdown performance against Forest Grove. Cascade's Quinn Legner is making his way up the list, as he has accounted for eight touchdowns in the past two games for the Cougars.

1. Spencer Plant, Sprague Sept. 6 result: Beat Forest Grove 69-21.
2. Levi Nielsen, Silverton Sept. 6 result: Lost to Corvallis 40-37.
3. Quinn Legner, Cascade Sept. 6 result: Beat Newport 48-13.
4. R.J. Veliz, Blanchet Catholic Sept. 6 result: Beat Warrenton 41-10.
5. Grant Thies, West Salem Sept. 6 result: Beat West Albany 52-7.
6. Peter Mendazona, Central Sept. 6 result: Lost to Crescent Valley 33-25.
7. Erik Barker, McNary Sept. 6 result: Lost to McMinnville 39-35.
8. Holden Smith, St. Paul Sept. 6 result: Beat Kennedy 54-14.
9. Tyler Parr, Amity Sept. 6 result: Beat Taft 55-7.
10. Grant Carley, Santiam Christian Sept. 6 result: Lost to Cascade Christian 47-0.

RUNNING BACKS

West Salem's Jacob Denning moves up to No. 2 on the Statesman Journal's running back power rankings after rushing for 140 yards and three touchdowns against West Albany. Sprague's Noah Mellen remains atop the list after rushing for 144 yards and two touchdowns against Forest Grove.

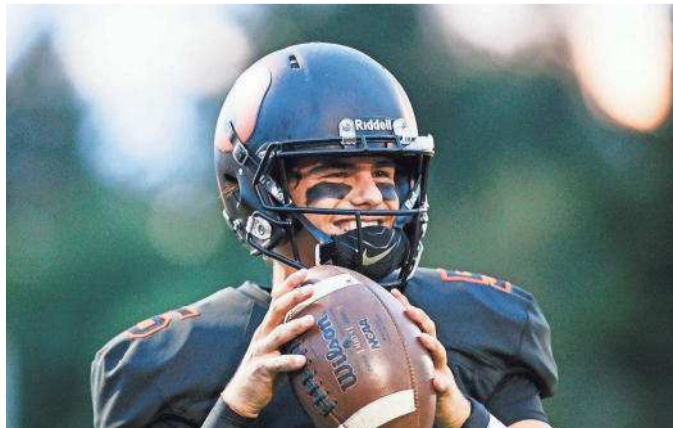
1. Noah Mellen, Sprague Sept. 6 result: Beat Forest Grove 69-21.
2. Jacob Denning, West Salem Sept. 6 result: Beat West Albany 52-7.
3. Dru Cook, Scio Sept. 6 result: Beat Colton 52-20.
4. Rigo Padilla, North Salem Sept. 6 result: Lost to South Salem 24-14.
5. Hunter Meissner, Silverton Sept. 6 result: Lost to Corvallis 40-37.



Sprague's Max Long, left, tries to outrun Forest Grove's Harrison Weems, right, in the Oct. 6 game. Long jumped up in the Statesman Journal's wide receiver power rankings with a three touchdown performance against Forest Grove. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL



West Salem's Jacob Denning, left, runs for a touchdown in a game against West Albany on Oct. 6. Denning has risen to the No. 2 spot in the Statesman Journal's running back power rankings after rushing for 140 yards and three touchdowns against West Albany. MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL



Sprague quarterback Spencer Plant warms up before a game against McMinnville on Sept. 22. Plant has solidified his spot atop the Statesman Journal's quarterback power rankings with a five-touchdown performance against Forest Grove. MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

6. Justin Herberger, St. Paul Sept. 6 result: Beat Kennedy 54-14.
7. Ethan Coffey, Cascade Sept. 6 result: Beat Newport 48-13.
8. Brandon Piete, Regis Sept. 6 result: Lost to Central Linn 26-8.
9. Brody Davidson, Santiam Sept. 6 result: Beat Gaston 57-0.
10. Brian Hatch, Amity Sept. 6 result: Beat Taft 55-7.

WIDE RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS

1. Anthony Gould, West Salem Sept. 6 result: Beat West Albany 52-7.

jumped up in the Statesman Journal's wide receiver power rankings with three touchdowns against Forest Grove. West Salem's Anthony Gould, who had a punt return for a touchdown last week, remains in the top spot.

1. Anthony Gould, West Salem Sept. 6 result: Beat West Albany 52-7.

2. Alex Altringer, Sprague Sept. 6 result: Beat Forest Grove 69-21.
3. Spencer Clements, Silverton Sept. 6 result: Lost to Corvallis 40-37.
4. Teagan Quitoriano, Sprague Sept. 6 result: Beat Forest Grove 69-21.
5. Zontel Brown, McKay Last week's result: Lost to Glencoe 42-28.
6. Max Long, Sprague Sept. 6 result: Beat Forest Grove 69-21.
7. Treve Earhart, Dallas Sept. 6 result: Lost to South Albany 22-18.
8. Gavin Baughman, South Salem Sept. 6 result: Beat North Salem 24-14.
9. Gage Hazelton, Salem Academy Sept. 6 result: Beat Gervais 52-19.
10. Payton Richardson, Amity Sept. 6 result: Beat Taft 55-7.

DEFENSES

Cascade has entered the top-10 of the Statesman Journal's power rankings for high school defenses in the Mid-Valley. The Cougars have allowed 125 points this season, the fewest in the Oregon West Conference, and 48 of those points came Week 1 against Marshfield. Silverton drops a few spots after allowing 40 points to Corvallis. The Foxes have allowed 103 points in their past three games. No change at the top of the rankings, with West Salem at No. 1, and Blanchet at No. 2.

1. West Salem Sept. 6 result: Beat West Albany 52-7.
2. Blanchet Sept. 6 result: Beat Warrenton 41-10.
3. St. Paul Sept. 6 result: Beat Kennedy 54-14.
4. Sprague Sept. 6 result: Beat Forest Grove 69-21.
5. Silverton Sept. 6 result: Beat Sheridan 41-7.
6. Central Sept. 6 result: Lost to Crescent Valley 33-25.
7. Cascade Sept. 6 result: Beat Newport 48-13.
8. Silverton Sept. 6 result: Lost to Corvallis 40-37.
9. Willamina Sept. 6 result: Beat Jefferson 42-6.
10. Scio Sept. 6 result: Beat Colton 52-20.