

HeraldSports

Follow sports on Twitter
@HHeraldSports

Lions fend off Dawgs in MCC showdown



ABOVE: Kennewick running back Myles Mayovsky (18) runs the ball in for a touchdown during the first half. The Kennewick Lions defeated the Hermiston Bulldogs 28-17 at Neil F. Lampson Stadium in Kennewick on Friday night. BOTTOM LEFT: Hermiston wide receiver Trevor Wagner (20) is brought down by a member of the Kennewick defense. BOTTOM RIGHT: Kennewick running back Myles Mayovsky (18) reaches up to make a catch.

Staff photos by Ben Lonergan

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The Hermiston Bulldogs still are looking for their groove. Once they find it, they could be dangerous.

The Bulldogs kept pace with Kennewick for three quarters on Friday night, but the Lions hung 14 points on the board in the fourth quarter to hold on for a 28-17 Mid-Columbia Conference victory at Lampson Stadium.

"You can't win if you don't take care of the little things," Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said. "If you don't sweat the small details, they come back to get you. We had missed assignments and missed opportunities. We just dropped the ball."

It was a key 3A game for both teams, but the Dawgs (0-3) did not make it easy on the Lions (2-1).

"They play hard," Kennewick coach Randy Affholter said. "I thought we controlled the ball and handled the run

game, but we need to make plays and put the game away."

The Lions led 14-11 after three quarters, but used a 2-yard touchdown by quarterback Blaine Chavez, and a 5-yard scoring pass to Max Mayer to take a 28-11 lead.

With 3:21 to play, the Dawgs scored on a 78-yard pass play from Sam Schwirse to Garrett Walchli to pull within 28-17.

"We played a lot better than what we have," said Walchli, who dedicated the game to his grandfather Skip Walchli, who died Friday morning. "It comes down to discipline. We have to be more focused. We are right there."

Schwirse finished the game with 183 yards passing, with Walchli on the receiving end of six for 108 yards.

Hermiston hung with the Lions in the first half, trailing 14-3 after two quarters.

Myles Mayovsky scored both touchdowns for Kennewick — on an 8-yard run in the first quarter, and from 11

yards out in the second. The bruising sophomore running back had 70 yards on 14 carries. He also had 85 receiving yards.

Between Mayovsky's touchdowns, Trevor Wagner kicked a 25-yard field goal for the Bulldogs.

Wagner previously missed on a 44-yard field goal, and on a 43-yard try, the snap was low.

With 1:08 left in the second quarter, the Lions looked to make one last charge.

Chavez hit Mayovsky with a 38-yard pass to put the ball at the Hermiston 29. A holding penalty pushed the Lions back. Kennewick ran out of time before they could find the end zone.

Early in the third, the Dawgs punted, and the ball hit off the chest of Mayovsky. Trent Pitney recovered the ball for Hermiston on the Kennewick 18-yard line.

Daniel Faaeteete ran the ball into the end zone from 4 yards out, and Caden Fisher ran in the 2-point conversion, as

the Dawgs trimmed the Lions' lead to 14-11.

"You can't let people hang around," Affholter said. "You have to start playing with a killer instinct."

HERMISTON 0 3 8 6 — 17
Kennewick 7 7 0 14 — 28

SCORING PLAYS

K — Myles Mayovsky 8 run (Ethan Woolery kick)
H — FG Trevor Wagner 25
K — Mayovsky 11 run (Woolery kick)
H — Daniel Faaeteete 4 run (Caden Fisher run)
K — Blaine Chavez 2 run (Woolery kick)
K — Max Mayer 5 pass from Chavez (Woolery kick)
H — Garrett Walchli 78 pass from Sam Schwirse (pass failed)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Passing: H — Sam Schwirse 18-22-0-183, Trevor Wagner 1-1-0-(-4); K — Blaine Chavez 11-17-0-181.
Rushing: H — Daniel Faaeteete 17-51, Trevor Wagner 3-(-5), Sam Schwirse 3-4, Garrett Walchli 2-14, Ben Wicks 2-0; K — Myles Mayovsky 13-70, Ethan Wolery 12-74, Blaine Chavez 6-13, Simon Howard 2-13.
Receiving: H — Garrett Walchli 6-108-1, Trevor Wagner 5-47, Trent Pitney 2-0, Broc Remmer 2-25, Daniel Faaeteete 2-2, Kaleb Crafton 1-4; K — Myles Mayovsky 3-85, Max Mayer 2-12, Elijah Tanner 2-52, Bryson Knapik 2-32, Arnaldo Cabrera 1-5, Elijah Tanner 2-52.

Walla Walla up next for Hermiston in MCC action

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

One thing that jumped out at first-year Walla Walla coach Greg Lupfer when he saw Hermiston on film, was the size of its players.

"They are gigantic up front," he said. "Their tailback (Daniel Faaeteete) is 6-foot, 220. We are not that big. The size difference they have on us, they are well-coached, and they will give us some problems."

The Blue Devils (1-2 MCC) will be at Hermiston (0-3 MCC) on Friday for a Mid-Columbia Conference game.

Lupfer, who has seen the like of Southridge, Hanford and Chi-

awana this season, still is adjusting to the play of the MCC.

"This is a very competitive league, for sure," Lupfer said. "I didn't know exactly what to expect. I knew Chiawana would be tough, but I didn't know about the others. Hermiston is probably the best 3A team in our league. They are a good team, regardless of what their record says."

The Bulldogs, still looking for their first win, are hoping to get on track Friday night.

"In a perfect world, everyone is healthy and everyone is playing," Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said.

The Bulldogs have been without running back Guiomar Garay,

who was hurt the first week against Pasco. Faaeteete said he expects him to play this week. Hermiston also is without defensive lineman Sean Stewart, who went out against Richland and missed last week's game. He is under concussion protocol.

Injuries aside, Faaeteete likes the improvements his team has made over the first three weeks of the season.

"There is improvement," he said. "We have made big strides, we are just coming up short. For the most part, the kids are competing, fighting and they don't quit. Every possession, tackle, missed tackle, every inch of the field is important."

The Blue Devils are rebuilding after losing the likes of lineman Patrick Utschinski, linebacker Jahmal Mangarero and receiver/defensive back Jared McAlvey to graduation.

Walla Walla has junior Ryan Martuscelli and sophomore Dash Sirmon sharing duties at quarterback. Sirmon placed sixth in the javelin at state as a freshman with a throw of 177 feet, 3 inches.

"Ryan is inexperienced, but he is a good competitor and he gets what we are trying to do," Lupfer said. "Dash will get a couple of series here and there. He will be special, he just needs some games."

Jakob Humphrey has been carrying the load at running back.

The 5-9, 175-pound transfer from Idaho Falls, Idaho, has run for 249 yards and one touchdown this season.

"Jake has done really well and he is a big part of our offense," Lupfer said. "We are young (eight seniors), but all of our kids are going to play hard."

Friday also will be the first time this season the Blue Devils played at Fran Rish in Richland and twice at home. Both venues have a real grass playing surface.

"This will be our first time on turf," Lupfer said. "That will be different for us. That is beautiful stadium."