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PROSSER — They had a shot to win. But Zillah's second-half penalties and turnovers revitalized Prosser and the Mustangs grabbed a 29-21 non-league football victory on their home field last night. "The turnovers were huge," Prosser coach Cory Ingvalson said after the game.

"We made too many mistakes to win," Zillah coach Ron Rood said. "Too many penalties, too many fumbles." Prosser scored in the first quarter and went up 8-0 on a 33-yard pass from quarterback Will Weinmann to Vulmum to wide receiver Levi Vermulm. But in the second quarter, Zillah stole the momentum, first scoring 2 points on a safety after a bad snap.

Then quarterback Drew VanKemseke hit Cody Vance for a touchdown with 2:32 left in the half. The point-after was good, and Zillah took a 9-8 lead. The Leopards marched up the field one more time and added 6 points on a Brian Calhoun 4-yard dive to spread the margin to 15-8. The Mustangs were visibly rattled as they ran out the clock and headed to the locker room.

There, coach Ingvalson told his team to stick together, to win one play at a time. Prosser came out in the third quarter more confident. And with 8:49 left in the third, Weinmann hit Haden Hicks for a touchdown strike. The point-after was good and the game tied at 15. But Zillah appeared ready to answer and marched down the field, converting a fourth down at the Prosser 33 with 3:24 left in the quarter.

But on the next play, VanKemseke let a wobbly pass fly and Prosser defensive back Will Thompson leaped high into the air to snag an interception. The momentum changed, and Prosser moved downfield. With 38 seconds left in the quarter, Weinmann struck again, this time on a 25-yard-pass to Jordan Garcia to retake the lead. The point-after failed and Prosser led 21-15.

Zillah's troubles continued in their final quarter, turning over the ball on a fumble with 5:17 left in the game. Twenty seconds later, running back Kord Tuttle scored from 9 yards out to add 6 more points for Prosser. A 2-point conversion made the score 28-15. Zillah's Vance would add one more score for the Leopards with 1:27 left in the game, but the conversion and following on-side kick failed. Looking back on the game, Rood said his team came into Prosser ready to compete.

While the loss was tough, he said it will help his team prepare for the tough 1A competition the Leopards will face in Connell and Royal if they are to make it to the state finals. Ingvalson credited Zillah for being a "physical team." "They have some incredible players," he said of the 1A school. "I think they're going to have a fantastic season." Prosser (2-0) heads to Othello (0-2) on Friday night to face the 2A Huskies. Othello is coming off back-to-back losses to 1A neighbors Connell (2-0) and Royal (2-0). Connell and Royal has each also defeated Ellensburg (0-2) this season. Meanwhile, Zillah will travel to Cowiche to play conference rival Highland (0-1). Highland heads to Kittitas -Thorpe to play a rescheduled 7 p.m. game today.