

Niemeyer's big day helps Prosser to win

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CLARKSTON, Wash. - Prosser junior Thomas Niemeyer touched the ball just three times Saturday afternoon against Clarkston. Once he had the ball, however, he couldn't be stopped. Niemeyer rushed for 72 yards and two touchdowns and also caught an 11-yard scoring pass from Cardell Jones to help Prosser to a 41-14 victory against the Bantams in the first round of the Class 2A state playoffs. "He had a couple big runs up the middle that he took all the way," Prosser coach Benji Sonnichsen said.

The fifth-ranked Mustangs advance to the quarterfinals where they'll meet CWAC rival Ellensburg, which won the matchup between the state contenders 21-14 a month ago at Art Fiker Stadium. No date, time or location has been set for the contest. Prosser had made the quarterfinals for five straight seasons, and have advanced to the semifinals the past three seasons. Niemeyer, who had already caught a touchdown pass from Cardell Jones for Prosser's first score, scored on a 52-yard run early in the second quarter and less than a minute after the ninth-ranked Bantams had taken a 14-7 lead.

Adrian Lochrie's 5-yard scoring dash gave the Mustangs the lead for good midway through the second quarter. Jones, who was 11-for-18 passing with 118 yards, had four receptions for 79 yards and hauled in a 28-yard scoring toss from Tanner Bolt early in the third to extend Prosser's lead. Niemeyer and Michael Kernan added scoring runs of 20 and 10 yards, respectively, and the Mustangs staunch defense did the rest. "It just took us a couple drives to figure out what to do with them," Sonnichsen said. "After watching them on tape and then seeing them live it just took a while to get it figured. Once we did, we were in the in the backfield all night getting pressure." Lochrie finished with 58 yards on 12 carries for the Mustangs (9-2), who were without leading rusher Isaiah Sanders. Javier Diaz added six receptions for 59 yards for Prosser. AJ Davis threw for 203 yards and a pair of scores for the Bantams (9-2), but the Mustangs also intercepted him three times.

Prosser 7 14 13 7 - 41

Clarkston 7 7 0 0 - 14

Cla - Trevor Sperry 19 pass from AJ Davis (Jacob Dwyer kick)

Pro - Thomas Niemeyer 11 pass from Cardell Jones (Diaz kick)

Cla - Jacob Shults 2 pass from Davis (Dwyer kick)

Pro - Niemeyer 52 run (Diaz kick)

Pro - Adrian Lochrie 5 run (Diaz kick)

Pro - Jones 28 pass from Tanner Bolt (kick failed)

Pro - Niemeyer 20 run (Diaz kick)

Pro - Miachael Kernan 10 run (Diaz kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING - Prosser, Niemeyer 2-72, Lochrie 12-58, Kernan 3-19, Jones 3-29, Kason Blair 1-2, Bolt 1-1, Lorenzo Ontiveros 2-10, Ryan Merritt 1-4. Clarkston, Blake Rimmelpacher 13-52, Kyle Jones 2-2, Bradly Larson 2-(minus 4), Shults 5-20.

PASSING - Prosser, Bolt 5-10-1-83, Blair 0-4-1-0, Jones 11-18-0-118. Clarkston, Davis 19-28-3-203.

RECEIVING - Prosser, Diaz 6-59, Lochrie 2-22, Kernan 1-10, Jones 4-79, Blair 2-20, Niemeyer. Clarkston, Sperry 4-89, Dwyer 7-101, Trevon Allen 1-17, Dylan Beeler 2-23, Larson 2-7, Shults 1-2, Rimmelpacher 2-4.