

# Prep Football: Bantams bent on slowing explosive Mustangs

How long have they been looking forward to this? "All year," explained Clarkston football coach Brycen Bye. Ever since his team's season-ending loss last November, to be precise. And the Bantams will get their chance at revenge this Saturday. That's when they'll play host to the Mustangs of Prosser at 1 p.m. at Adams Field for the opening round of the Washington Class 2A state playoffs as the Bantams make their second straight trip to State.

Asked what it means to make the playoffs twice in a row, something the Bantams have only done three times in the school's history, Bye called it a step in the right direction. Now making its 28th trip to State in the past 30 years, Prosser beat Clarkston by 27 points last year in the opening round before falling to Ellensburg. And while the Mustangs graduate Cardell Jones - no, not that Cardale Jones - the visitors still run the program's vaunted no-huddle attack.

Particularly for schools that don't run such a system themselves and have no way of simulating it during practice, Bye attested, the offense presents a number of complications. "So we have to limit the explosive plays," Clarkston's second-year coach said, explaining that means preventing long touchdowns. "And staying away from turnovers," Bye added, "will really be huge for us."

## **Prosser vs. Clarkston 11-15-2015 Yakima Herald**

At Clarkston, the Mustangs won a rugged defensive struggle that saw both Prosser scores come from its defense.

Eddie Zepeda got one on a 2-yard fumble return during the second quarter and Javier Diaz scored the second on a 35-yard interception return in the fourth period.

The Bantams held Prosser to zero net yards rushing and only 22 yards of total offense while managing just 17 yards rushing and 35 passing.

PROSSER 14, CLARKSTON 0

Prosser 0 7 0 7 — 14

Clarkston 0 0 0 0 — 0

Pro — Eddie Zepeda 2 fumble return (Javier Diaz kick)

Pro — Diaz 35 interception return (Diaz kick)

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Prosser, Michael Kernan 8-19, Noah Flores 6-35, JR Coleman 7-14, Tanner Bolt 8-(minus 45). Clarkston, Blake Rimmelspacher 6-14, Dylan Beeler 1-2, Hansen Hunter 3-1, Kyle Jones 4-(minus 4), AJ Davis 12-(minus 10).

PASSING — Prosser, Bolt 6-21-1-56. Clarkston, Davis 21-48-4-178.

RECEIVING — Prosser, Diaz 2-30, Luis Fernandez 1-11, Kernan 1-8, Zepeda 1-6, Roy Borrego 1-1. Clarkston, Beeler 6-58, Trevon Allen 5-51, Hunter Hansen 5-51, Derrick Hoene 2-12, Rimmelspacher 2-9, Jaden Brume 1-(minus 3).

### Tri-City Herald

The Prosser Mustangs are into the quarterfinals of the Class 2A state football playoffs — and their next opponent is one with which they are all too familiar.

Prosser defeated Clarkston 14-0 on the road Saturday. Next weekend, the Mustangs will face CWAC rival Ellensburg, which knocked them out of the playoffs last year. The date and site have yet to be determined.

The Mustangs (10-1) scored in the second and fourth quarters to put away the Bantams (8-3). Clarkston defeated East Valley (Yakima) in a crossover game Tuesday.

No other information was available as the Herald went to press.

## Bantams doomed by 10 turnovers

Clarkston falls to Prosser 14-0, eliminated from 2A playoffs

By Byron Edelman of the Tribune | [0 comments](#)

An observation: It seemed like Clarkston spent the entire game on offense. Which made the outcome somewhat surprising: a 14-0 shutout loss to Prosser Saturday at Adams Field, during the opening round of the Washington Class 2A state football playoffs. "At any level, probably the best defensive game I've watched," said Clarkston coach Brycen Bye. Bye's team did play inspired defensive football, yet repeatedly shot itself in the foot on the other side of the ball - foiling its best scoring opportunity with a false start and negating another score with an illegal shift.

But that didn't sink the Bantams' boat. Ten turnovers did, two of which proved particularly costly.

With 7:24 left in the first quarter, Prosser's Eddie Zepeda recovered a fumble his Mustang teammate forced at the Clarkston 4-yard line that he ran back for the game's first score. And midway through the final period, Javier Diaz, the player who forced the fumble that led to Zepeda's score, seemingly slammed the door shut when he gave Prosser a 14-0 edge after returning an interception 30-yards for a pick-six. Despite holding the ball on offense for nearly a quarter longer than their visitors, the Bantams suffered their first shutout since 2013, a streak that spanned 29 games.

"Our defense played lights out," Bye said, lauding that unit for its effort. "I just wish we could have put some points on the board." The Bantams almost did put some points on the board - twice. In a play that was negated by an illegal shift penalty called on the Bantams, Hunter Hansen reeled in a 72-yard catch and run from AJ Davis that would have given the hosts a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter. And with half-a-minute left in the third quarter, the Bantams appeared on the verge of tying things up at 7-all when they marched to the Mustangs' doorstep.

But after making it to the 2-yard line with 36.3 seconds left in the penultimate period, a false start on fourth-and-goal gave the visitors a get out of jail free card as it moved the Bantams back to the Mustangs' seven. Clarkston threw an interception on the ensuing play. "It was just frustrating," Bye said of that fruitless, 54-yard, 11-play drive which saw his team daringly convert on three fourth downs - only to come away empty-handed. Prosser's Kolby Swift nabbed a tipped ball in the back of the end zone and "that's where we found ourselves," Bye said, "all day."

While they got several more opportunities in the fourth quarter to tie things up, or pull within a possession, the Bantams never seemed to fully recover from that missed opportunity.

They dropped numerous balls and incurred 12 penalties for a grand total of 73 yards.

Penalties hurt both teams: The Mustangs entered the game averaging 46 points per contest, but saw 13 penalties take away 94 yards. "I can 100 percent tell you, this wasn't how we drew it up," said Prosser

coach Corey Ingvalson, whose 10-1 squad will play Ellensburg in the next round at a date and location to be determined.

While the Mustangs are making their 28th trip to State in the past 30 years, this represents just Clarkston's third back-to-back trip to State in school history. "Just a special group of guys," Bye said of his charges, whose bond, he added, transcended their 8-3 season. "As a coach, you can only wish you have a group of guys like we do because we just have fun, we have fun every single day we're out here. "And not a single kid on this team was ready for it to be done because we've had so much fun together."

Prosser 0 7 0 7-14

Clarkston 0 0 0 0- 0

Prosser - Eddie Zepeda 4 fumble recovery returned for score (Javier Diaz kick)

Prosser - Diaz 30 interception returned for score (Diaz kick)