

# *Sedro-Woolley sets sights on Prosser*

By VINCE RICHARDSON @Sports\_SVH 11/27/2015

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SEDRO-WOOLLEY — The Sedro-Woolley football team continues to roll.

Through the first three weeks of the playoffs, the defending Class 2A state champion has played well.

At 3 p.m. Saturday at Yakima's Zaepfel Stadium, the Prosser Mustangs (11-1) will get their shot at the Cubs (9-3) in a state semifinal game.

The Mustangs ended a five-game losing streak to Ellensburg — the only team to beat them this season — in a 31-0 state quarterfinal game.

"We've seen them on film, and they look very physical, particularly on the defensive front," Sedro-Woolley coach Dave Ward said of Prosser. "They certainly have the capability to shut down a running team.

"Overall, they are a solid, tough football team. They really don't have many weaknesses."

Ward said the Prosser team Ellensburg faced last week was different than the one Ellensburg beat early on.

"They had a chip on their shoulder," Ward said. "I think they had a couple of players out and moved some others around in that second game. They were just a different team."

The Cubs will have to contend with Prosser quarterback Tanner Bolt and his deep corps of receivers, including seniors Javier Diaz, Roy Borrego and Kason Blair, and junior Kolby Swift.

Ward said the 6-foot-2 Blair is often the Mustangs' go-to wide receiver.

"They can mix in the running game," he said. "They are pretty balanced."

The Cubs will face an active defensive front that tends to shift mid-snap count. Prosser's linebackers blitz often.

Senior linebackers David Ledesma and Diaz will have to be neutralized if the Cubs are going to find success on the ground.

"They aren't going to sit in one front," Ward said. "Right before the snap, they will shift. Our offensive line is going to have to stick to their blocking rules."

"They have a couple of linebackers that are very good and we will have to account for them."

Sedro-Woolley has the personnel to do just that. The Mustangs' defense will certainly be tested by the Cubs' multi-dimensional running attack.

Ward said especially for it being this late in the season, his squad is healthy and he doesn't expect any changes in the lineup.

And not much will change for the Cubs in terms of their offensive game plan.

"We'll have an excellent game plan in place," Ward said. "We're on the road again and we're fine with that. This team will be ready to go."

## *Sedro-Woolley's state run ends in Class 2A semifinals*

By TREVOR PYLE @Sports\_SVH Yakima Herald

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The Sedro-Woolley Cubs won their first state football title last year in the Tacoma Dome.

On Saturday, the Prosser Mustangs stopped the Cubs from getting there again.

Tied with the Cubs at halftime, Prosser pulled away in the second half for a 33-21 victory in the Class 2A state semifinals in Yakima.

Billy Hornbeck, Quinn Carpenter and Carter Crosby scored for the Cubs, but Prosser's offense proved too efficient and its defense too stout to overcome.

Carpenter scored on a 1-yard run, Crosby on a 20-yard run and Hornbeck on an 85-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Devin Willard.

Prosser's Tanner Bolt threw touchdown passes of 9 and 71 yards and Michael Kernan had two touchdown runs for the Mustangs, who outscored the Cubs 19-7 in the second half.

"Really, there weren't any big surprises. They were just a good team. The offense needed to drive the ball longer and keep it out of their hands," Sedro-Woolley coach Dave Ward said.

"That's the first wing-T team we've played all year and we knew they might get some big plays early," Prosser lineman Riley Lusk. "The way to win was to bounce back from those big plays and we did. That's easily the most physical team we've played this year, but we came out with a will and determination to get it done."

Prosser advances to play Tumwater at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Tacoma Dome for the state title.

Prosser receiver Javier Diaz said, "That's a heck of a team, Sedro-Woolley. They're really big and fast and physical, and I respect them a lot."

While the Cubs' season ended with the loss, Ward said it was quite a ride for Sedro-Woolley (9-4), which played in one of the toughest conferences in the state and was 2-2 after its first four games.

Still, he said, the team roared to life for a playoff run that included a win over Olympic and a last-second victory over Hockinson.

"We've been enjoying the heck out of the last three weeks, the last month, really," he said. "You could see the kids were learning and understanding. They're very coachable. We set the goal to improve every week and you could see how it paid off. We just kept getting better as the season went on."

Ward said three straight postseason appearances will be a memorable stretch for the team's graduating seniors.

"We'll graduate some good players who contributed to our success the last two years, three years, really; these seniors have a lot to be proud of," he said. "They've set the bar high. It's rewarding to see them develop friendships and know they had something special going in high school when they worked together."

# Prosser tops Sedro-Woolley 33-21, will play for 2A state title

Mustangs return to state title game for ninth time

Diaz anchors offense with 10 catches for 210 yards, TD

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Prosser will face Tumwater for Class 2A championship

BY JACK MILLIKIN

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## YAKIMA

Riley Lusk couldn't help but linger around in a joyous mix of awe and glory on Zaepfel Stadium's frozen field turf after the Prosser Mustangs defeated Sedro-Woolley, the defending Class 2A state champions, 33-21 in the state semifinals Saturday evening.

The Mustangs senior and three-year starter left his heart and soul out on the field, along with plenty of sweat and blood, so he didn't think twice about spilling out a few emotions there, too.

"You just get to celebrate with all the people that come to support you and love you. It's unlike any feeling in the world. I can't describe it," Lusk said amid a few happy tears. "It's always been a dream since I was a little kid to get to the Tacoma Dome, and now we're there."

For the ninth time in school history, Prosser will play for a state championship. Next Saturday, the Mustangs (12-1) will face Tumwater (13-0) at 10 a.m. at the Tacoma Dome, hoping to add a sixth state title to the trophy case.

"This means everything for our program. We really want to honor our past and former players in the stands. We were fighting to be together for another week and get No. 9, and now we're headed to the Dome," said Prosser coach Corey Ingvalson, a former Mustangs player who helped the 1999 Prosser squad, coached by the legendary Tom Moore, beat Sammamish 42-38 in the championship.

"When you have great players and a great coaching staff like we do, and with our high expectations, it's always possible," Ingvalson said. "We always expect to play into November. This year we get to play in December."

The Mustangs got a particularly strong effort from Javier Diaz, a senior wide receiver who finished with 10 catches for 210 yards, including a 71-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown on Prosser's first play from scrimmage.

"We knew they played really deep, so we started attacking on short passes," Diaz said. "I got a good block from Roy (Borrego) and all my wideouts. It wasn't just me. It took everybody to get it done."

That was the underlying theme throughout the game, especially with the Sedro-Wooley firing back to take a 14-6 lead. After Prosser tied the score at 14 just

before the half on Michael Kernan’s 4-yard touchdown run, the Cubs punched in another score to make it 21-14 on their first drive of the second half.

But the Mustangs scored on their next possession, capping a nine-play, 70-yard drive with a 2-yard touchdown run by Kernan to tie the score.

On the ensuing kickoff, Prosser surprised Sedro-Woolley with a pooch kick by Diaz that landed behind the front line and just in front of the wedge men. Junior Jude Schnellbach hustled in to swallow it up, and the Mustangs had first-and-10 from the Cubs’ 41.

“Coach told us at halftime he thought there would be a big turning point in this game, and I think that’s what he was talking about,” Diaz said.

Tanner Bolt finished the seven-play drive with a 9-yard touchdown pass to Borrego, putting Prosser up 27-21 with 5:26 left in the third quarter. It was one of two touchdown passes on the day for Bolt, who completed 29 of 44 passes for 336 yards. But the junior also tossed four interceptions — two of them to Josh Gaethle.

“I can’t say enough about the guys around me. Any time your quarterback throws four interceptions like I did, you have to play really great around him to get things done. Hopefully, I can lower the interceptions next week,” Bolt said with a smile. “You just can’t let things in the past affect you. You have to realize it’s a new play. It is tough. There are times you think, ‘Oh my gosh, I can’t believe I threw that.’

“But you can’t lose faith in yourself.”

J.R. Coleman added an insurance touchdown in the fourth quarter, sprinting around right end on a sweep for 11 yards and finishing with a full-extension dive into the end zone.

“I’m so happy for the kids. They worked so hard for four years to realize the Tacoma Dome again,” Ingvalson said.

Sedro-Woolley	7	7	7	0	—	21
Prosser	6	8	13	6	—	33

#### SCORING PLAYS

P — Javier Diaz 71 pass from Tanner Bolt (Diaz kick)

SW — Quinn Carpenter 1 run (Adrian Vasquez kick)

SW — Billy Hornbeck 85 pass from Devin Willard (Vasquez kick)

P — Michael Kernan 4 run (Kernan pass from Bolt)

SW — Carter Crosby 20 run (Vasquez kick)

P — Kernan 2 run (Diaz kick)

P — Roy Borrego 9 pass from Bolt (kick fail)

P — J.R. Coleman 11 run (kick fail)

## STATISTICS

RUSHING — SW, Carpenter 15-78, Bi.Hornbeck 4-21, Crosby 13-46, Bryce Hornbeck 4-44, Thor Wagoner 2-6, Willard 2-6. P, Kernan 12-42, Coleman 8-60, Noah Flores 5-7, Bolt 2-(minus 4), team 1-(minus 4).

PASSING — SW, Willard 4-13-1-91, Crosby 1-8-1-28. P, Bolt 29-44-4-336.

RECEIVING — SW, Gavin Holdt 1-0, Bi.Hornbeck 2-113, Wagoner 2-6. P, Diaz 10-215, Kernan 3-19, Logan Hamlin 1-5, Josiah Stutzman 1-0, Borrego 3-21, Kason Blair 5-56, Eddie Zepeda 2-17, Luis Fernandez 1-5, Flores 1-0, Kolby Swift 1-5.

FIRST DOWNS — SW 11, P 22. FUMBLES — SW 3-1, P 2-0. PENALTIES — SW 8-75, P 5-50.