

Selah defense prevails at Prosser

By Luke Thompson Yakima Herald-Republic

PROSSER — Selah relied heavily on its offense to pass tough tests in the first two weeks of the season.

It turns out the Vikings can play dominating defense, too. A few coaching adjustments helped Selah shut out Prosser over the final three quarters and leave Art Fiker Stadium with a 21-12 CWAC South victory Friday night.

“They slammed it down our throat the first two series,” Viks coach Scott Ditter said. “We went to a five-man front, played man and dared them to throw it and our guys back there are pretty good.”

The Mustangs needed only one completion — and a pass interference penalty — to score on drives of 80 and 71 yards, respectively, capped each time by a short touchdown runs from JR Coleman. When the holes began to close, Selah’s athletic secondary eagerly took advantage.

Defensive back Jake Weber said that’s exactly what the Viks wanted against Prosser’s junior quarterback, Will Weinmann. He rarely found open receivers and threw a tough-luck interception when Weber snagged a deep ball in man-to-man coverage.

“I just looked at the quarterback, looked where he was throwing,” Weber said. “I just saw it in the air, I’m like, ‘this is mine. We got to get this. This is a game-changer.’”

Weber kept the momentum going on the next play, reeling off a big gain to set up Zak Donato's 28-yard touchdown pass to Cameron Ditter two plays later. The defense took care of the rest, holding Prosser to just 51 rushing yards in the second half.

The elder Ditter said he challenged his defense to step up earlier this week after it gave up at least 35 points in each of its first two games. They responded in impressive fashion and Ditter expects it to provide a big boost in confidence moving forward.

Mustangs coach Corey Ingvalson said Selah linebacker Tristan McDevitt stood out on a defense full of speed he sees quite often as Prosser's track and field coach in the spring. Reaching the edge proved difficult for the Mustangs' running backs, and few windows remained open for long in the passing game.

Prosser's defense slowed down Viks quarterback Zak Donato and an offensive averaging nearly 49 points per game. But the formula for solving how to stop the Donato-to-Ditter combination remains a mystery after they connected seven times for 94 yards and all three touchdowns.

"I credit Zak," the junior receiver said. "They're just dimes."

Ditter showed off his leaping ability on the third touchdown, a 28-yard pass to the right side of the end zone. Ingvalson also praised Ditter's speed and crisp route running that have enabled him to catch six touchdowns in three games.

It's hard to believe the duo had never played together before this season, although Ditter said they've put in plenty of practice and looked forward to this year for quite a while. So far, it's safe to say they've surpassed any reasonable expectations.

The road hardly gets any easier for Selah next week when it travels to Toppenish, which improved to 4-0 with a 48-0 win at Wapato. Both Ditters expect another tough battle an experienced team looking to cement its breakout season.

Ingvalson saw improvements for Prosser, especially on defense as the Vikings scored just once in the second half. The Mustangs will look to break a rare two-game losing streak next Friday at Grandview.

“For us to be able to slow (Selah) down, there’s a lot of positives,” Ingvalson said. “We’ve just got to keep chopping away and hopefully we get better and have an opportunity later in the season.”

Selah 7 7 7 0 — 21

Prosser 12 0 0 0 — 12

Pro — JR Coleman 1 run (kick failed)

Selah — Cameron Ditter 9 pass from Zak Donato (Hall kick)

Pro — Coleman 2 run (kick failed)

Selah — Ditter 21 pass from Donato (Hall kick)

Selah — Ditter 28 pass from Donato (McDevitt kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — S, Jake Weber 13-50, Donato 12-35, Sam Skeen 7-18. Prosser, Kord Tuttle 20-145, Coleman 17-80.

PASSING — S, Donato 17-27-0-219. Prosser, Weinmann 6-13-1-76.

RECEIVING — S, Ditter 7-94, Morfin 5-64, Weber 3-29, Kyler Coleman 2-32. Prosser, Hade Hicks 2-48, Jordan Garcia 3-23, Levi Vermulm 1-5.