

Coleman leads Prosser to hard-fought CWAC win over Toppenish

Mustangs' running back scores three touchdowns as defense shuts down Wildcats

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Oct 13, 2017 Updated 19 hrs ago

TOPPENISH — With an ice bag taped to his lower left leg, JR Coleman was the last into the handshake line, last to the student celebration and last to the team huddle.

Prosser's senior running back and linebacker was hurting and moving mighty slow.

But with a broad smile for each painful step.

"I took a little bit of a beating, but you do it for the team," he said. "This was a great night for us."

Coleman ran the ball a career-high 35 times for 159 yards and scored all three touchdowns and helped spearhead a stellar defensive effort as the Mustangs defeated Toppenish 24-10 in CWAC football Friday night at Wildcat Stadium.

There was a playoff intensity in the contest for good reason — the winner would clinch the South Division's No. 2 seed and remain alive for the postseason.

"This was the season right here and we played a great game," said Coleman, whose final score was a 33-yard burst up the middle with 4:24 left in the game. "We've been a scary team the last three weeks and we're going to keep it up."

With Coleman's battering-ram running game and Will Weinmann's 124 passing yards, Prosser did enough to take care of business, but it was the defense that deserved the game ball.

The Mustangs shut down the CWAC's leading rusher, holding Toppenish's Keyano Zamarripa to 7 yards on 10 carries. With only 11 net yards on the ground, the Wildcats were forced to rely mostly on quarterback Adonis Shaul, who did complete 15 of 30 passes for 168 yards but wasn't able to drive Top-Hi for a touchdown.

Toppenish did, however, have two opportunities to turn the momentum.

Down 17-3 in the third quarter, Shaul was effective on perimeter with six completions that pushed Toppenish into the end zone. But Prosser defensive back Logan Candanoza grabbed a tipped pass for Adonis' first interception of the season.

Still stymied on offense, the Wildcats turned to its defense, which provided Aaron Valdez's 85-yard interception return with 5:50 to play, suddenly creating a one-possession game at 17-10.

But three plays later, Coleman dashed up the middle for his third score and the clincher.

"The biggest thing for us was to be the most physical team," said Prosser coach Corey Ingvalson. "We were tremendous on defense. We focused on getting consecutive stops, which we got. We used our speed and played physical up front. That helped on offense, also. It was great to see JR carry the ball with tenacity like that."

Prosser (2-1 South, 5-2 overall) closes out divisional play next week hosting Wapato and will then prepare to face the North No. 2 seed on Oct. 28 at Grandview. That game will seed the two teams for the winner-to-state crossovers with the Great Northern League.

“We did a great job holding down their big plays,” Coleman said of the defense. “With Toppenish you never know — you could stop a couple drives then all of a sudden they get a 90-yard run. But we locked down the run and made them throw more. Our defense was amazing tonight and we had to have it.”

Prosser 7 10 0 7 — 24

Toppenish 3 0 0 7 — 10

Topp — FG Chris Grant 21

Pro — JR Coleman 1 run (Vincent Gonzalez kick)

Pro — Safety

Pro — Coleman 1 run (Jordan Garcia pass from Will Weinmann)

Topp — Aaron Valdez 85 interception return (Grant kick)

Pro — Coleman 33 run (Gonzalez kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Prosser, Coleman 35-159, Kord Tuttle 12-37, Weinmann 1-7. Toppenish, Isaias Ramirez 5-17, Keyano Zamarripa 10-7, Adonis Shaul 2-4, Grant 2-3, Team 2- (minus 20).

PASSING — Prosser, Weinmann 9-25-1-124. Toppenish, Shaul 15-30-1-168.

RECEIVING — Prosser, Chase Courtney 5-79, Gray Skylar 1-18, Levi VerMulm 1-15, Anthony Kernan 1-7, Haden Hicks 1-5. Toppenish, Grant 5-37, Parker Reynolds 3-16, Isaac Perez 2-48, Isiah Perez 2-22, Josue Garcia 1-16, Manuel Felan 1-15, Eliab Garza 1-14.