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prep football

spotlight game **mankato west 48, bloomington jefferson 0**



Mankato West quarterback Ryan Schlichte, left of center, celebrated with wide receiver Josh Athey after Schlichte scored a touchdown on a quarterback sneak.

QB, defense pace Mankato West rout

Ryan Schlichte threw four TD passes in Scarlets' shutout win over Bloomington Jefferson.

By HANK LONG
Special to the Star Tribune

Senior quarterback Ryan Schlichte's lengthy list of football accomplishments in three seasons at Mankato West was missing one significant item until Saturday.

Schlichte led the Scarlets in passing and rushing touchdowns this season. He recently committed to play next season at Minnesota State Mankato. But he had yet to win a state tournament game until he led the Class 5A quarterfinal at Lakeville North High School. Schlichte threw four touchdowns passes and also scored

"We feel like we have a fast, talented defense, and they showed it today. Jefferson is a good football team. I was very proud of the way the kids played and executed on both sides of the ball today."

Mark Kich, Mankato West coach after Scarlets' 48-0 win over Bloomington Jefferson

on a 1-yard touchdown run as Mankato West dominated from start to finish.

"This was the same field [where] we lost to great Oronoma team in the state quarterfinal in 2012," Schlichte said. "It was special for all of us, especially the seniors, to get this win right here today."

The Scarlets dominated time of possession and field position.

Schlichte threw touchdown passes to four different receivers, with three of those TDs coming in the first quarter. But it was ball-swarming,

disciplined defense that gave Mankato West (10-3) favorable field position out of its seven scores, coach Mark Kich said.

"We feel like we have a fast, talented defense, and they showed it today," said Kich, whose Scarlets last won a state tournament game in 2011.

Jefferson is a good football team. I was very proud of the way the kids played and executed on both sides of the ball today."

The Jaguars (7-4) made their first state tournament appearance since 1994.

Mankato West scored on

the first possession of the game at 8 minutes, 16 seconds of the first quarter on a 27-yard pass from Schlichte to Jon Pylak.

The Scarlets followed that up less than three minutes later with another touchdown pass, this time to Josh Athey.

Mankato West Coach Kich expects the scoring in the first quarter with a diving 16-yard catch in the end zone.

The Scarlets' defense took over from there. It limited the Jaguars' ability to sustain drives throughout the game and did not allow them to cross midfield until late in the sec-

Key of the game: Scarlets senior quarterback Ryan Schlichte threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers in the first quarter, capped by a 16-yard strike to Connor Watt. All three scores came on possessions that started at midfield or in Jefferson territory.

Quote: "A win like this builds momentum for this team. We know we have a great opponent next week, so we wanted to play hard on both sides of the ball today. We did that." — Mankato West coach Mark Kich

One thing to know: Mankato West is averaging 50 points per game this season, but the Scarlets' defense might have something to do with that. It held Bloomington Jefferson without a first down until midway through the second quarter. The defense gave up just two first downs in the first half.

HANK LONG

ond quarter.

The effort did not go unnoticed by their team's quarterback.

"They ran hard on the football, they gave us a tough challenge, they did everything our coaches told them to do," said Schlichte, whose offense benefited from a short field all afternoon.

Mankato West will play St. Michael-Albertville in the Class 5A semifinals on Friday at Eden Prairie High School.

AROUND THE METRO Video from Saturday night's games and all the latest scores at msofootball.com

roundup

Dawson-Boyd ends Mahonmen's streak in IA

► **DAWSON-BOYD IA, HAWKWOOD 26:** The Blackhawks closed the regular season with a 26-14 victory over Dawson-Boyd in the Class 1A quarterfinal. Dawson-Boyd led the Blackhawks to score 20 unanswered points behind quarterback Alex Mahonmen. Mahonmen had 182 yards and two touchdowns for Dawson-Boyd. The Blackhawks' longest active winning streak now belongs to Hawthorn at 17 games.

► **SHREVE LA, MARSHALL STEPHEN 26:** Shreve scored 26 points in the second half to pad away for the victory in a Class 3A quarterfinal. The Spartans (2-3) led 14-0 at halftime and extended their lead to 27-11 after three quarters. Michael Anagnostis rushed for two touchdowns for Shreve.

► **OLDONE SILVER LAKE IA, BLUE EARTH AREA 14:** The Panthers led 14-0 at halftime and then held on for the victory in a Class 1A quarterfinal. Mattie Anderson threw a 19-yard pass to coach's son and Zach Peterson scored two TDs for the Panthers (1-1). Anderson's 22-yard TD pass for Peterson with 22 seconds remaining in the first half gave the Panthers a 20-0 lead.

► **NEW LONDON-SPENCER IA, EMER 27:** The Wildcats rolled for six touchdowns on their way to the Class 3A quarterfinal victory. Senior Trey Astoroff accounted for three scores on the ground and three Johnnie about two touchdowns.

► **LAURENS IA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 8:** The undefeated Vikings were powered by Garrett McHenry's three rushing touchdowns in the Class 1A quarterfinal victory. The Panthers scored with 1:13 left on the ground.

► **BECKER IA, ROCKWELL:** Fulton Beiler rushed for a pair of touchdowns and quarterback Michael Hovinen added another score with 1:13 to score Becker to the Class 4A quarterfinal victory.

STAFF REPORTS



Spring Lake Park running back Isley Carrington loses a tackle by Faribault's Cole Miller on Saturday.

SPRING LAKE PARK 43, FARIBAULT 19

Both teams turned the ball over early at Lakeville North, but when Spring Lake Park settled down, the Panthers used a dominating offensive line to control the game. The biggest benefactor of the line's play was running back Isley Carrington, who rushed for three first-half touchdowns, including an 81-yard score. Often running off the left side behind Zack Johnson and Joshua White, Carrington and fullback Zachary Ogil followed the lead of quarterback Donch Salveo, who ran the Panthers' offense to perfection. After a Faribault drive in the first quarter ended in a touchdown, the Panthers' defense gave up little else until the game was well in hand. Defensive back Josh Bauer had two interceptions.

Key of the game: The Panthers dominated both sides of the line of scrimmage.

The offensive line paved the way for five rushing touchdowns.

Quote: "The line made some key blocks on plays designed for me and we just finished some drives." — Isley Carrington

One thing to know: Spring Lake Park's Bauer now has 13 interceptions this season. The Panthers will play Shreve in the Class 3A semifinals Friday at Hopkins High School.

BRIAN BRZAK

ROCH LOUNDES 43, ST. CROIX LUTHERAN 28

The Eagles took advantage of St. Croix Lutheran's turnover in the Class 1A state quarterfinal game Saturday at Farmington High School. In a span of about five minutes in the second quarter, Loundes turned a 14-4 deficit into a 23-14 lead.

Key of the game: Senior quarterback A.J. Sather's first pass completion in a varsity game resulted in a touchdown. He played the second half after concussion symptoms sidelined starter Noah Hillman. Sather connected with James Ulfby for a 27-yard touchdown to complete a nearly seven-minute drive to open the third quarter.

Quote: "I had butterflies in my stomach, but these guys [teammates] picked me up. They made me feel right at home. Same with the coaching staff. They all told me they had faith in me." — A.J. Sather

One thing to know: Loundes senior Nick Stamerud had two interceptions. He ran the second one back 52 yards for a touchdown with 6:52 left in the game.

HEATHER RILEY