

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018 SPORTS *** STAR TRIBUNE C7

PREPS EXTRA
PREP BOWL SEMIFINALS

BECKER LUTHER MEDICA

CLASS 4A WILLMAR 62, ST. PAUL 20

Willmar QB runs, throws for seven TDs

The Governors could not stop Drey Dickson.

By DAVID LA VAGUE
david.lavague@startribune.com

All season long, Willmar's football team found success when starting games with the ball.

"We like to receive every single time because we like to have the offense push the team and get the adrenaline going," senior quarterback Drey Dickson said.

The formula led to a 63-20 blowout of St. Paul Johnson on Friday in a Class 4A semifinal at U.S. Bank Stadium. Willmar won the coin toss, elected to receive, scored first and scored often.

Willmar ranked No. 8 in the final Associated Press poll, led 70 just four plays and 37 seconds into the game. Dickson ran 25 yards for the first of seven Cardinals touchdowns in which he had hand for leg.

"We had some fantastic plays on the first drive and it was fun," said Dickson, who ran for the first three Willmar scores and threw for the next four. He finished with 90 yards rushing and 210 yards passing.

"That quarterback is fantastic," Johnson coach Eric Moberg said. "He moves well and he throws the ball well. There's a reason he's thrown for 2,000 yards and run for 1,000 yards this season."

The Cardinals led 41-7 at halftime on route to a season-high in scoring. The victory sends Willmar (13-1) to the Prep Bowl to face the SMU Wolfpack at 4 p.m. Friday. The Cardinals finished second in 1973.

Three of Willmar's first four drives produced touchdowns, Johnson (7-3), the first St. Paul public school to reach the state tournament since 1961, couldn't keep pace.

"The guys were still in shock of the huge stage that we were on and I think that's why we came out so fast in the first quarter," senior Lake Moberg said. "We weren't able to catch up from the mistakes we made."



Willmar quarterback Drey Dickson sprinted past St. Paul Johnson defensive end Samuel Kopy (20) in the first half. Dickson ran for his team's first three TDs and then passed for four more.

RESULTS

STATE TOURNAMENT

FOOTBALL

CLASS 4A

Willmar 62, St. Paul 20
Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 1A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 2A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 3A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 4A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 1A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 2A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 3A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 4A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 1A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 2A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 3A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 4A

St. Thomas Academy 24, Parkton 14
Miller 20, Willmar 14
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3
St. Paul Johnson 7, Willmar 3

CLASS 2A BARNESVILLE 34, MINNEAPOLIS NORTH 20

Barnesville controls clock, deals North its first loss

Reigning champion Polars see opportunities limited.

By HEATHER BUELL
Special to the Star Tribune

Barnesville sophomore Adam Tomfeldt had played quarterback before this season. But he's also a natural leader with teammates who respond to him, according to his coach, Bryan Strand.

"I pulled him in last year and told him to go to the quarterback next year," Strand said. "He's a 300-pounder, and he plays like a senior."

Tomfeldt helped lead a powerful Barnesville offense in a dominating 34-20 victory over previously undefeated Minneapolis North in the

Class 2A semifinal Friday at U.S. Bank Stadium. Tomfeldt rushed for 99 of Barnesville's 366 yards. His passing stats? Zero-for-zero. The Trojans ran 49 times for 366 yards, compared to 147 rushing yards for Minneapolis North.

Barnesville senior Preston Soebol set the tone when he returned the opening kickoff 43 yards into Polars territory. That help set up his 6-yard touchdown run for a quick 8-0 lead. The Trojans made about three minutes later, capitalizing on a North fumble.

"We popped some right away," Tomfeldt said. "The Polars had a tough time finding the ball."

The Trojans (13-7) had the ball for 30 minutes, 8 seconds, compared to just 17:52 for

North. Keeping the ball out of the hands of the high powered Polars offense was part of the plan, Strand said.

"If we've got the ball, they can't score," Strand said. "And we used the game clock. Got it down to 5 seconds almost everytime because we weren't going to give them time."

Barnesville junior running back Hunter Anderson finished with six carries for 97 yards and a touchdown. Senior Nick Detloff rushed 16 times for 96 yards and a touchdown.

The 34 points were the most Minneapolis North (13-1) allowed in a game since 2009. "They came out playing tough, scored right away and they stayed consistent," North coach Charles Adams said.



Barnesville QB Adam Tomfeldt took a hit from Minneapolis North's Taqurim Wair but completed the two-point conversion.

NINE-MAN MOUNTAIN LAKE 42, MOUNTAIN IRON 38

Unbeaten Mountain Lake flaunts physical advantage

Wolverines score on first drive and keep on rolling.

It is possible that a team playing nine-man football can overwhelm an opponent with numbers? That was likely the case in Mountain Lake's 42-8 response to Mountain Iron-Buhl in the semifinals.

Mountain Lake (12-0) showed its physical identity from its first possession Friday. The Wolverines battered the smaller Rangers, driving 75 yards on 11 plays, all runs. The drive ended with a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback Abe Stoeck and an 8-0 lead.

"Our game plan was to get a lead," Mountain Lake coach

Tim Kirk said. "We've been behind, I think, just once all year."

Playing for the first time in U.S. Bank Stadium, Stoeck said he and his teammates had some pregame butterflies, but that quick lead helped them settle down.

"We haven't a lot of nerves, but once the game starts, you stick your chest out and turn those nerves into pride," he said. Four of the Wolverines' first five possessions ended in touchdowns, leading to a 29-0 halftime lead. They outgained the Trojans 250-88 in total yards before halftime with a defense designed to bottle up their opponent's speed.

Mountain Lake added another touchdown in the third quarter on an 18-yard pass from Stoeck to Zach Spinks, making the score 36-0.

The final quarter was played with running time.

"That's the idea that want to be on our team that can't get it," Kirk said after the game. "These guys can, and that is why we are where we are."



The defense went low on Mountain Lake's Drake Hasterer went high for a second quarter touchdown.

SATURDAY'S SEMIFINAL GAMES

Five more games on Saturday at U.S. Bank Stadium to settle the Prep Bowl lineup for next Friday and Saturday. Staff writers Jim Paulsen and David La Vague give their takes.

CLASS 1A
BLOOMING PRairie (12-0) VS. BOLD (12-0), 9 A.M.

Jim says BOLD asserted itself as the Class 1A favorite with a 49-7 whipping of Minnesota, which had won three of the past four IA state titles, in the Section 5 final. **BOLD 40, Blooming Prairie 21.**

David says A Prep Bowl berth would be a fitting send-off for outgoing BOLD coach Steve Soem. Brothers Dawson and Corin Venka lead the way. **BOLD 35, Blooming Prairie 28.**

CLASS 1A
SPRINGFIELD (8-4) VS. MAHONNEN/WAUBUN (11-0), 11:30 A.M.

Jim says Mahonnen/Waubun's six shutouts since it's always down — run lead and run often. The Thunderbolts have 4,188 yards rushing in 11 games. **Mahonnen/Waubun 34, Springfield 7.**

David says Mahonnen/Waubun's six shutouts prove the Thunderbolt's great name, by the way, is pretty good at stopping the other guys, too. **Mahonnen/Waubun 41, Springfield 14.**

CLASS 2A
ROCHESTER LOUNDES (12-0) VS. PIERZ (11-0), 2 P.M.

Jim says Loudes (2014, 2016) and Pierz (2015, 2017) have split the past four state championship. Pierz was No. 1 in the final AP state poll. Loudes No. 2. Shouldn't this be the Class 2A final? **Pierz 28, Rochester Loudes 14.**

David says Right rushing TDs last week. Four from Carson Hula alone, propelled the Pioneers into the semifinals. Expect fewer end zone trips but the same outcome. **Pierz 36, Rochester Loudes 14.**

CLASS 3A
FERHAM (9-2) VS. FAIRMONT (10-1), 4:30 P.M.

Jim says If he played in the movie, Ferham QB Benson Beschy would be a household name. He's elusive as a runner, accurate as a passer and in a difference-maker. **Ferham 33, Fairmont 28.**

David says First-year Fairmont QB Garrett Myren has shown a veteran's maturity throughout the playoffs. The Cardinals, missed No. 3 in the final AP poll, have followed his lead. **Fairmont 24, Ferham 21.**

CLASS 3A
SEMI (11-1) VS. ST. THOMAS ACADEMY (11-0), 7 P.M.

Jim says The tough-sounding Cardinals aren't spectacular, but they don't need to be. They just grind down their opponents' will. **St. Thomas Academy 24, Semi 12.**

David says Semi's sophomore James Williams scored five touchdowns last week. Senior senior Ryan Sibley, defied his 1,069 receiving yards and 20 TDs. Explosive elements could be the Cardinals' tryptophan. **Semi 28, St. Thomas Academy 21.**