

# La Center dominates Hockinson on road

Wildcats score on all six first-half drives

By WILL DENNER  
The Columbian

HOCKINSON — Don't think for a second the La Center Wildcats will overreact to a Week 1 victory.

After putting together a dominant display in a 43-7 road win against Hockinson on Friday, the Wildcats didn't want to get caught up in a single result. Their

attention quickly shifted to next week's opponent, Woodland, and the days of practice ahead.

"It really boosts our confidence and gives us something to work toward," said junior Wyatt Eiesland, a linebacker and offensive lineman. "We still also got something to show. (La Center Athletic Director Matt Cooke) showed us a quote (that) said, 'You can celebrate all you want on the field, but once you get back into the locker room,

it's all about next week.'"

Yet the importance of the win, La Center's first against Hockinson since 2010, couldn't be overstated. The Wildcats felt their 2022 season ended prematurely in a first-round loss of the Class 1A state playoffs, then entered this season with just four seniors on the roster. The team's core juniors and sophomores showed Friday they're ready to step into bigger roles.

La Center scored touch-

downs on all six of its first-half drives, while holding Hockinson scoreless with just 66 total yards through two quarters.

Juniors Houston Coyle and Isaac Chromey each accounted for two touchdowns, senior Jalen Ward added a 24-yard rushing score and junior Kaden Emerson hauled in a 32-yard touchdown pass from senior Garrett Maunu.

"I feel like everyone has to be on their top game (and) everyone has to act

like seniors," Coyle said. "Seniors may be the leaders, but sophomores and juniors got to act like seniors."

Coyle accounted for the Wildcats' first two touchdowns, starting with the opening kickoff.

A Hockinson crowd teeming with excitement turned up the volume as the Hawks lined up to kick deep. But when Coyle retrieved the ball, found an opening and sprinted up the Wildcats' sideline to the house, the

visitors took the air out of the stadium.

"(Our) sideline was pumping," Coyle said. "I heard nothing. The crowd was just silent. It was just all quiet to me. Once that hole opened up, I was gone. It was awesome."

La Center thrived in the quiet atmosphere.

Their offensive line paved the way for nearly 200 rushing yards, led by Ward's 68 yards, while Maunu completed 9-of-12 passes for 119 yards.



TIM MARTINEZ/The Columbian

Skyview's Kaden Hamlin (11) and Kellen Wiggins (33) bring down Jesuit's Trey Cleeland (3) during the Storm's 28-0 win at Kiggins Bowl on Friday.

## Skyview defense stifles Jesuit

Storm also show big-play ability in 28-0 opening win

By TIM MARTINEZ  
The Columbian

Sure, Jake Kennedy made some big plays, but it was the defense that stole the show Friday night for Skyview.

The Storm got contributions from all over its defense as Skyview shut out Jesuit of Beaverton, Ore., 28-0 to open at the season at Kiggins Bowl.

"We didn't give up any points against a very good team that's going to win

a lot of games," Skyview coach Steve Kizer said. "I'm just really pleased with how our kids played on defense."

Jerrid Secor returned an interception 29 for a touchdown, Andrew Orioro recovered a fumble, Riley Artis had an interception and Alexander Sederstrom had two sacks against a Jesuit line that outsized the Storm.

"The key is speed," Sederstrom said. "We have great speed. We didn't have the size, but we have some really athletic dudes. And our coach had a great plan to use our speed to out-speed people."

And the Storm also got

out to a fast start on offense.

After Skyview got bottled up on its first two plays from scrimmage, setting up a third-and-10 from its own 23-yard line, Kennedy broke free on a 69-yard run. That set up Kennedy's 7-yard touchdown run two plays later.

Kizer credited offensive coordinator Matt Hamlin with a key call, and Kennedy did the rest.

"It's third-and-10 and you don't expect for the quarterback to run the ball," Kizer said. "Jake is one of the fastest kids around here. I thought that was kind of turning point."

On Jesuit's third offen-

sive play, Secor caught a deflected pass and returned it 29 yards for a touchdown, putting the Storm up 14-0 with 8:37 left in the first quarter.

After Skyview's defense got another stop, thanks to a sack from Levi Webb, Trey Jacob's 13-yard touchdown run put Skyview up 21-0 with 6:47 left in the first quarter.

"We scored 21 points in like the first six minutes," Kizer said. "I love to start a game like that."

The offense then scuffled a bit from there. But the way the defense played, it didn't matter.

Kennedy added a 56-yard

touchdown run early in the fourth quarter to help seal the win.

"The defense did really good; (Jesuit) didn't put any points on the board," Kennedy said. "We got many fumbles, many picks, the pick-six in the first quarter just kept us going."

While there are things to work in, Kennedy took in the victory after falling 24-21 at Jesuit to open last season.

"It feels amazing," he said. "We've been waiting for this game all year. Last year, we didn't get the outcome we wanted. But we brought back (tonight) and just took it to the house."

## Woodland rushing attack strong against Kalama

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### ROUNDUP

Junior running back Elijah Anderson rushed for 168 yards and sophomore running back Karsen Northcutt added 87 rushing yards as Woodland defeated Kalama 44-30 at Beaver Stadium on Friday.

All told the Beavers (1-0) gained 245 yards on the ground and scored touchdowns on five consecutive possessions in the first half. Anderson found the end zone four times (three rushing, one receiving) and Northcutt scored two touchdowns on the ground for Woodland.

**HUDSON'S BAY 31, HERITAGE 7** — Rafael and Aqeel Bau-

man each had long touchdown runs in the third quarter as Hudson's Bay rushed for 373 yards.

Rafael Bauman rushed for 156 yards on 13 carries, including a 75-yard touchdown run in the third quarter that put Bay up 17-7.

Aqeel Bauman followed with a 70-yard touchdown run later in the quarter. He finished with 154 yards on 13 carries and three touchdowns.

Luke Melvin returned a kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown that tied the game 7-7 in the second quarter.

**RIDGEFIELD 27, W.F. WEST 21** — Brayden Malella broke a 21-21 tie with 11:09 to play with a quarterback keeper to give the Spudders a win.

Malella also threw touchdown passes to Cash Hill and Landon DeBeaumont as Ridgefield led 21-13 at halftime.

**AUBURN 14, PRAIRIE 12** — Prairie fell short at home as a late field goal was blocked. Auburn broke a 12-12 tie in the third quarter with a safety.

Quarterback Braeden Slamp gave Prairie and early boost when he broke free for an 88-yard touchdown.

**SETON CATHOLIC 32, ROCHESTER 30** — Linebacker Tru Feldman stopped a two-

point attempt with 1:35 to play as the Cougars opened the season with a dramatic road win.

Kolten Gesser threw three touchdown passes, one each to Joe Callarame, Jacob Williams and Ryker Ruelas.

Callarame and Williams each also had a rushing touchdown.

**EVERGREEN 14, EISENHOWER 12** — Josiah Alanis' interception late in the fourth quarter sealed the Plainsmen's road victory in Yakima in a game coach Christian Swain called a "defensive battle."

Quarterback Jayden Crace completed 14 of 22 passes for 147 yards and touchdowns to Anthony

Lamberth and Terrance Saryon.

**O'DEA 40, UNION 0** — The Titans lost quarterback Mitch Ratigan to injury on the first series of the game and couldn't recover against the perennial Class 3A powerhouse in Seattle.

**BATTLE GROUND 43, MARK MORRIS 0** — Jacob Champine rushed for two touchdowns and caught another as the Tigers rolled to a win in Longview.

Ethan Adams tossed two touchdowns in his first start at quarterback as Battle Ground led 35-0 at halftime.

**STEVENSON 20, KING'S WAY CHRISTIAN 14** — After bolting to a 20-0 lead, the Bulldogs held off a second-half comeback.

## Yelm edges Camas, 8-7

By MEG WOCHNICK  
The Columbian

CAMAS — The atmosphere, the quality teams on the field, and even the down-to-the-wire theatrics had all the makings for a playoff showdown at Doc Harris Stadium on Friday night.

Yet this was the 2023 season opener. And one heck of a season opener, it was.

The biggest takeaway from the Camas Papermakers' narrow 8-7 defeat to defending 3A state champion Yelm is this: there's a lot to learn and even more to gain, players said postgame.

"This is just going to help us later on," junior quarterback Jake Davidson said, who made his varsity debut Friday night. "I really feel we know where we are now, and we just need to work on it."

Coach Jack Hathaway spoke postgame to his team about the entire journey and how a Week 1 one-point defeat at home isn't the Super Bowl. He even spoke how sometimes the best team on the field doesn't always win.

In a game Friday that saw countless penalties — mostly from the visitors — it was a defensive performance on both sides the entire 48 minutes. Plus, Yelm's special teams in the final seconds The Tornados blocked Camas' potential 18-yard game-winning field goal to take over on downs and run out the clock after the Papermakers marched 65 yards down the field in less than 2 minutes to put themselves in a position for the win.

Both teams scored touchdowns in consecutive possessions in the second quarter. First came national four-star recruit Brayden Platt's longest carry of the game for Yelm — a 30-yard score — that gave Yelm its 8-0 lead. On the next series for Camas, a seven-play, 80-yard drive was capped by Titan Brody's 4-yard score that made it an 8-7 game.

Then there's the red zone what-ifs for Camas. What if Yelm didn't pick off Camas in the end zone right to end the first half after a 68-yard drive? What if Camas hadn't been stopped inside the 3-yard line on three straight plays in the third quarter, leading to a field-goal try that bounced off the left upright in the third quarter?

Senior tackle Carson Osmus praised his teammates' performance on both sides of the ball. He took reins of the postgame huddle and shared words of encouragement.

"We worked our (butts) off — I'm so proud of us," Osmus said. "That's a great team. In the beginning of the week, we said to set the tone, and we set the tone against them. You can't get much better than that."