

Postseason hopes over for Richland

Davis is No. 3 seed after 21-20 victory in Kansas tiebreaker

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The Richland Bombers have been living on the edge all year. They did it again Tuesday night at Lions Field in Moses Lake.

Only this time, football fortune did not smile upon them.

After barely squeezing into a three-way playoff against Davis and Wenatchee, the Bombers let a final postseason opportunity slip away against the Pirates when a bad snap on a point-after-touchdown resulted in a broken play that gave Davis a 21-20 win and the No. 3 seed out of the CBBN.

Richland senior B.K. Robinson crossed the goal line like a runaway freight train in the second overtime of a tiebreaker against Davis. He didn't imagine for a minute, however, that it would be his last carry of the game.

TUESDAY'S SCORES
In Moses Lake
 ▶ Davis 3, Wenatchee 0
 ▶ Davis 21, Richland 20 (2 OT)

FRIDAY'S GAMES
 ▶ Davis at Mead, 5:30 p.m., Joe Albi Stadium
 ▶ Central Valley at Chiawana, 7 p.m., Edgar Brown Stadium
 ▶ Eisenhower at Ferris, 8 p.m., Joe Albi Stadium
 ▶ For full list of games, see **Page C2**

"I thought we were headed to the third overtime," said Robinson, who rushed for 98 yards on 12 carries in the abridged game. "This loss is going to be tough to get over."

Davis (6-3) earned a trip to Joe Albi Stadium at 5:30 p.m. Friday to face Mead (8-1), the top seed out of the Greater Spokane League. If the Pirates win, they would make their first state playoff appearance.

Davis also had to beat Wenatchee in the first eight-

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RICHLAND | Struggled with turnovers in regulation and overtime

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minute tiebreaker to earn a date with Richland, prevailing 3-0 on Daniel Guzman's 29-yard field goal with 12 seconds left.

"I told the kids, 'If we play defense like that against Richland, we'll be at McDonald's by 7 o'clock,'" Clark said. "But they responded."

The Bombers (6-3), who will host Lewis and Clark (6-3) on Friday at Fran Rish Stadium in a non-playoff crossover, started slowly, as Robinson fumbled away a promising first drive into Davis territory. The Pirates made them pay, as Cooper Kupp hauled in a pass from Deion Wright on a 10-yard slant across the middle, broke a tackle and turned it into a 23-yard touchdown for a 7-0 lead.

"We made a few mistakes. That's been our nemesis all year is what we do to ourselves," Richland coach Mike Neidhold said.

But the Bombers bounced back with a score on their next drive, as Zack Whitby connected with Ethan Whitby on a 44-yard strike down the left hash to tie it at 7.

The teams traded touchdowns in the second half. Davis running back Austin Wagner capped a 10-play, 71-yard drive with a 9-yard run to take a 14-7 lead. But

Richland answered back, as Robinson and Cameron Simpson combined for 54 yards on five carries, with an 11-yard scoring run by Simpson to cap it with 2:51 left in the second half.

"We knew we could run up the middle on them," Robinson said. "We were just making too many mistakes on our own. We've been playing ourselves the last couple weeks instead of our opponents."

With 57 seconds left in the second half, Wright fumbled the ball after a sack in Davis territory, and Ethan Whitby recovered. But two plays later, the Bombers gave it right back after Carlos Perea-Vijarro intercepted Zack Whitby to end the threat and send the game into a Kansas tiebreaker to decide the winner.

In the tiebreaker, Richland just handed the ball to Robinson, who powered his way for a 17-yard gain on second-and-9, giving the Bombers a first-and-goal from the 6. But a high snap sailed over Whitby's head and Victor Ramos recovered to give Davis the ball back.

But the Pirates almost nearly gave the game away themselves on the very next play, as Wright fumbled on a quarterback keeper up the gut. Richland linebacker Tory Weitz picked it up in the backfield and ran for what appeared to be a game-win-

ning touchdown.

But under Kansas tiebreaker rules, a fumble is ruled a dead ball and cannot be advanced.

Davis scored on its next drive, when Wright hit David Trimble on a quick out to the right pylon to make it 21-14 in the second overtime.

"(To lose on a fumble) would have been heartbreaking," Wright said. "But it came down to stepping up when we needed to."

But nobody was going to stop Robinson three plays later, starting off behind the left tackle and then blasting inside for an 8-yard score.

"B.K. had a great game," Neidhold said. "They never stopped him once."

And with a nice surge from his offensive line, it looked as if the Bombers would keep their playoff hopes alive.

"Once I got around the edge, I saw my lead blocker Simpson, and I knew I had to get in," Robinson said.

He got in all right, but Richland couldn't close the deal on the extra point.

"It's pretty tough in the locker room," Neidhold said after the game. "The kids are pretty sad. But I'm proud of them for fighting until the bitter end."

Wenatchee (5-4) will host Gonzaga Prep (5-4) in the other 4A crossover game.