MID-COLUMBIA FOOTBALL



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Kamiakin guarterback Kylle Robertson does damage on the ground Friday night as Richland's Hayden Whitby pursues him during Kamiakin's 25-14 win over Richland at Lampson Stadium in Kennewick. See photo gallery at tricityherald.com.

Braves dig in, down Richland

Kamiakin climbs out of 2-TD hole in 25-14 MCC victory over Bombers

CRAIG CRAKER

HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Kamiakin Braves grew up in a hurry Friday night.

After watching star linebacker and running back Johnny Jansen get hurt and already missing one of the top wide receivers in the Mid-Columbia Conference in K Perrins, the Braves found themselves in a two-touchdown hole to Richland in the first quarter.

But rather than give in, Kamiakin cranked up its offense and rallied for a 25-14 victory at Lampson Stadium.

"To be honest, there was a little fear," said quar-

terback Kylle Robertson about the mood of the team after Jansen's injury. "We had a little meeting, decided we had to suck it up

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and mature fast." The Braves (3-0 league, 4-1 overall) did just that.

Robertson and wide receiver Javan Williams helped Kamiakin go on an 11-play, 99-yard drive to get the Braves offense back on track and in the game.

Robertson was 4-for-5 for 60 yards and rushed for 22 more on the drive, eventually hitting Cameron Rathbun for a 13-yard touchdown pass.

The drive seemed to take the wind out of Richland, which had been dominating both sides of the ball.

After a three-and-out, Kamiakin immediately marched back down the field, and Robertson

threaded the needle to hit Williams for a 36-yard touchdown pass with just 24 seconds remaining in the first half to pull within 14-12.

"He's an athletic beast," Robertson said of Williams. "It's awesome to have him on the team."

After trading possessions in the third quarter, Kamiakin took advantage of short field position and drove 40 yards for another touchdown.

The drive was extended when Williams toed the sidelines for a 22-yard reception, and it was capped by a Robertson 1-yard run.

Robertson and Williams weren't only showing off on offense, though.

Robertson was forced into defensive duty because of the injuries to Jansen and Perrins. He played a strong game at the safety position, while Williams was a force in the second half at defensive

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BRAVES DeVine, Bishop each score 2 touchdowns as Hanford shuts out Sunnyside

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back.

Williams returned a tipped pass 27 yards for the game-sealing score in the fourth quarter.

"A lot of guys were hurt," Robertson said. "We finished the game with only three seniors on the field. We matured. We grew up real fast tonight. We grew up quickly."

Richland jumped on Kamiakin early, scoring on its first drive as Zach Whitby scored on a 5-yard draw play. After a Kamiakin drive stalled, the Bombers went back to work marching down the field. They eventually missed a field goal, but scored after Mason Baird picked off a Robertson pass and two plays later Whitby hit Sheldon Liikala for a 15-yard touchdown and a 14-0 lead.

But it would not last, thanks to players stepping up and making plays for

Kamiakin. Robertson finished 17-of-31 for 220 yards with an interception and two touchdown passes. Williams had 12

receptions for 172 yards and a score. Liam Ollila rushed for 85 yards on 14 carries in place of Jansen, helping kill

the clock in the fourth quarter. Whitby was 19-for-38 for 211 yards with an interception and a touchdown. Cameron Simpson rushed for 51 yards, as the Bombers also got bit by injuries when starting running back Josh Phillips went down in the third quarter. SCORINGPLAYS

First quarter Richland-Zach Whitby 5 run (Kevin Garza kick), 8:59 Richland-Sheldon Likala 15 pass from Whitby (Garza kick), 1:10 Second quarter

Kamiakin-Cameron Rathbun 13 pass from Kylle Robertson (kick falled), 1:57

Kamlakin-Javan Williams 36 pass from Robertson (kick falled). : 24

Third quarter

Fourth quarter Kamlakin-Willams 27 Interception return (Connor Shymanski kick),

1-220.

Kamlakin-Robertson 1 run (pass falled), 3:01

RUSHING-Richland, Cameron Simpson 10-51, Josh Phillips 6-72, Whitby 8-6, Mason Baird 2-4, Garrett March 1-(-3). Kamiakin, Liam Ollila 14-85, Robertson 17-48, Johnny Jansen 1-8, Austin Gutierrez 1-2, team 1-

PASSING-Richland, Whitby 19-38-1-211. Kamlakin, Robertson 17-31-

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Kamiakin's Javan Williams races past Richland's Hunter Chambers on Friday en route to a 36-yard touchdown reception in Kamiakin's 25-14 win over Richland at Lampson Stadium in Kennewick. Williams also returned an interception for a touchdown. See photo gallery at tricityherald.com.

RECEIVING-Richland, Gibson McGeorge 4-75, Hayden Whitby 1-4, Sheldon Lilkala 4-29, Simpson 2-25, Conner Smith 1-8, Josh Phillips 1-2, Cody O'Toole 1-26, March 3-24, Deric Samples 1-13, Derek Redden 1-5. Kamlakin, Williams 12-172, Brandon Larsen 2-20, Jim Fowler 1-7, Casey

Brandon 1-8, Cameron Rathbun 1-13. FIRST DOWNS-R16, K21. FUMBLES-LOST-R1-0, K0-0. PENAL-TIES-YARDS-R 5-54, K 10-106.

HANFORD 26, SUNNYSIDE 0: Jalen De Vine and Will Bishop each rushed for two touchdowns to lead the Falcons over the Grizzlies in a nonleague home game.

DeVine got his TDs on short runs, while Bishop broke off for scores of 13 and 68 yards.

Hanford's lockdown defense held Sunnyside's Eduardo Salmeron to 86 yards on 9-for-27 passing. Salmeron also threw three interceptions.

Ramon Hernandez led the Grizzlies on the ground with 59 yards on 15 carries.

Falcons coach Rob Oram gave the game ball to his defense.

"It was a comprehensive team effort on defense," Oram said. "The D-line was great. The linebackers were flying around. The DBs were making plays."

H-Jalen DeVine 5 run (kickfalled) H-Will Bishop 13 run (Bishop kick) H-DeVine 3 run (ktck falled) H-Bishop 68 run (Bishop kick)

STATISTICS RUSHING-S, Ramon Hernandez 15-59, Joseph Contreras 1-5, Marcus Sanchez 3-13, Eduardo Salmeron 13-20, Trey Serl 1-(minus 6). H, DeVine 19-89, Bishop 2-81, Malik Slack 5-8, Austin Taylor 8-88, Zach Dodson 2-2, Austin Forsyth 1-0.

PASSING-S, Satneron 9-27-3-86, Sert 0-1-0-0, H, Forsyth 0-2-0-0. RECEMING-S, Contreras 5-57, Brandon Daley 1-4, Sanchez 3-25, H.,

FIRST DOWNS-S 11, H 13, FLIMBLES-LOST-SO-0, H 2-1, FENALTIES-YARDS-S12-107, HN/A.