

Bombers top Pasco, secure 4A No. 1

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With a winless Pasco team facing its final game and the Bulldogs' biggest offensive threat sidelined, the Richland Bombers weren't likely to see much of a test from their guests across the Columbia River.

What the Bombers were hoping for was to clinch the No. 1 seed into the 4A Eastern Regional playoffs and secure a home game Friday against the Greater Spokane League.

They got both with a 35-0 Mid-Columbia Conference beatdown of Pasco on Friday at Fran Rish Stadium, taking advantage of a depleted Bulldogs roster with a strong passing effort from quarterback Zack Whitby.

The 5-foot-10 junior completed 15 of 27 passes for 219 yards and four touchdowns — two of them to junior receiver Gibson McGeorge.

The Bombers may have been hoping for a better tuneup against the



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Richland's Cameron Simpson runs through the tackle of Pasco's Ricardo Galvez, left, on Friday at Fran Rish Stadium. See a photo gallery at tricityherald.com.

Bulldogs, especially considering their next opponent will be GSL No. 2 seed Mead, which features a strong running game and Notre Dame-bound linebacker Danny Mead.

"I took a peek at them today against my better judgement," Richland coach Mike Neidhold said. "They're big, and they'll run it right down your throat, kind of like

Hanford. We'll just have to crowd the box and see if we can stop them."

The Bombers got started quickly, getting a 51-yard run up the middle by Anthony Galat to set up Whitby's 15-yard touchdown pass to McGeorge for a 7-0 lead.

Six minutes later, Whitby found Sheldon Liikala for a 17-yard touchdown pass, putting Richland up 14-0 after just 7½ minutes.

"We were told to step on the throttle early," Whitby said. "We just wanted to stay sharp. This was kind of like a practice for us. We need it."

Pasco played most of the game without star running back Luis Murillo, who suffered a bloody cut after making a touchdown-saving tackle on Galat and then left the game with an ankle injury after just one carry on offense.

"They're kind of hurting over there, but they played hard. There's

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usually a lot at stake between us, but they're still trying to put things together," Neidhold said. "We're still trying to figure out how to play a full 48 minutes. But I'm proud of the kids' effort. We did some soul searching last week, and the coaches put a good game plan together."

Running back Josh Phillips got another full game at running back, carrying 17 times for 126 yards and a score. Cameron Simpson, Phillips' running mate, had a few early carries but sat out most of the game to get healthy for next week.

With 2:40 left in the first half, Whitby hit McGeorge in the left flat, and McGeorge did the rest, beating a defender 1-on-1 and cruising into the end zone for his second TD of the day. That made it 21-0, and the rout was on.

"We studied the film on them," McGeorge said. "We could see they were good athletes, but their corners were playing a little soft."

One highlight for Pasco was the play of senior lineman Zack Krieder, who was a workhorse in the trenches. Kreider's number got called on several second-half plays, pulling from his left tackle spot to lead the charge on several running plays.

He also blocked a punt and sacked Richland's backup quarterback Taylor O'Toole in the fourth quarter.



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Richland's Gibson McGeorge makes a catch for a touchdown in the first quarter against Pasco. See a photo gallery at tricityherald.com.

Pasco	0	0	0	0	- 0
Richland	14	7	14	7	- 35

Scoring plays

R - Gibson McGeorge 15 pass from Zack Whitby (Anthony Galat kick)
R - Sheldon Liikala 17 pass from Z. Whitby (Galat kick)
R - McGeorge 3 pass from Z. Whitby (Galat kick)
R - Josh Phillips 33 run (Galat kick)
R - Garrett March 65 pass from Z. Whitby (Galat kick)

Individual statistics

RUSHING - P, T.J. Faamausili 6-36, Roger Ingram Jr. 11-23, Isaiah Sprinkle 2-2, Luis Murillo 1-10, Daniel Haug 5-3, Kolby Kilroy 6-(minus 1), Brady Ritale 5-8, R. Cameron Simpson 2-9, Phillips 17-126, Galat 2-62, Z. Whitby 2-(minus 9), Mason Jackson 4-0, Ryker Mackey 2-4, Taylor O'Toole 1-(minus 1).

PASSING - P, Faamausili 0-1-0, Kilroy 5-11-23, Ritale 8-27-2-TD, R.

Z. Whitby 15-27-0-219

RECEIVING - P, Spencer Calveard 4-24, Ingram Jr. 4-20, Austen Clarke 2-42, Kendall Lee 3-39, R. Gibson McGeorge 2-18, Liikala 5-70, Phillips 2-10, Cody O'Toole 1-1, Garrett March 3-95, Mason Baird 1-20, Nathan Streufert 1-13.

FIRST DOWNS - P 13, R 15. FUMBLES-LOST - P 1-0, R 0-0. PENALTIES - P 3-35, R 8-80.

CHIAWANA 39, WALLA WALLA 35: Christian Penny caught a 4-yard pass from Joey Zamora with 2:26 left in the fourth quarter to put the Riverhawks ahead, and the defense preserved the win with an interception in the end zone with no time left.

The win means Chiawana, the MCC 4A's No. 2 seed, will visit Gonzaga Prep in a regional playoff game next week.

Wa-Hi's Dakota Turner threw for four touchdowns, two to Darrell Handcox, while Jonah

Hoe rushed for 183 yards on 37 carries.

Walla Walla	7	21	0	7	- 35
Chiawana	13	6	7	13	- 39

SCORING PLAYS

C - Clifton Lozano 4 run (Logan Ellsworth kick)
WW - Jake Grandstaff 19 pass from Dakota Turner (Dean Atkinson kick)
C - Dre Dorton 58 pass from Joey Zamora (Ellsworth kick)
WW - Paul Gilmore 5 pass from Turner (Atkinson kick)
C - Dorton 23 pass from Zamora (pass fail)
WW - Darrell Handcox 37 pass from Turner (Atkinson kick)
WW - Handcox 18 pass from Turner (Atkinson kick)
C - Austin Urtacher 16 run (Isaac Mitz kick)
WW - Forrest Swant 48 fumble return (Atkinson kick)
C - Urtacher 30 run (Mitz kick)
C - Christian Penny 4 pass from Zamora (pass fail)

STATISTICS

RUSHING - WW, Jonah Hoe 37-183, Turner 4-17, Stuart Gillin 3-2, Zach Gilvey 2-3, C, Lozano 20-138, Urtacher 11-99, Zamora 4-27.

PASSING - WW, Turner 10-17-1-166, C, Zamora 9-15-0-173.

RECEIVING - WW, Handcox 5-93, Grandstaff 3-51, Hoe 1-17, Gilmore 1-5, C, Dorton 2-81, Terro Ball 2-30, Grady Graff 2-31, TJ Avery 2-27, Penny 1-4.