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Richland's Jesse Malone intercepts a pass intended for Ferris' Jalen Hicks during Friday night's State 4A play-in game at Albi Stadium.

Richland cashes in

Seven turnovers contribute to Ferris' postseason defeat

By Greg Lee

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Everything that could go wrong did go wrong for Ferris. Everything that could go right did go right for Richland — especially in the first half.

And it didn't get any better for Ferris in the second half as the Bombers throttled the Saxons 35-7 in a State 4A play-in football game on Friday night at Joe Albi Stadium.

The Greater Spokane League's 4A postseason qualifiers are finished, Mid-Columbia Conference champ Chiawana knocked out visiting Gonzaga Prep 42-14.

Richland (9-1) outplayed Ferris (8-2) in most facets.

"It was a tough night," Ferris coach Jim Sharkey said. "They are a very good football team and I knew that. We knew on film that we had our hands full. We just can't turn the ball over like that and expect to win a game."

Ferris finished with seven turnovers, but Sharkey wouldn't use the mistakes as an excuse.

"Even if it was an even-up game, it was going to be a tough night," he said. "Richland could make some noise."

In a matter of 3 minutes, 34 seconds, a scoreless game turned into a 21-0 Richland lead midway in the second quarter.

Ferris appeared as if it would score first, using 11 plays to move 60 yards before turning the ball over on downs at Richland's 22-yard line with 4:53 to go in the



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Richland's Kyle Whitty, left, stops Ferris' Josh Taylor at the line of scrimmage during the Bombers' 35-7 postseason road victory.

first quarter.

Richland, behind bulldozing running back Anthony Galat, methodically moved the ball over 15 plays and 80 yards with Nathan Perry scoring from 2 yards out with 10:33 to go in the second quarter.

Then the first of two big Saxons' turnovers happened when wide receiver Tim Kirby fumbled, giving the Bombers possession at the Ferris 32.

Five plays later, Bombers quarterback Zach Whitty hit Mason Nelson with a 13-yard TD

pass as Nelson got past Ferris cornerback Jalen Hicks for a 14-0 lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, Cole Karstetter muffed the catch and the ball bounced toward the goal line. Karstetter tried to jump on the ball and it squirted away into the end zone where the Bombers' Lakota Willis pounced on it for a TD.

Just like that, it was Richland 21-0 with 7:59 to go before intermission.

To the Saxons' credit, they bounced back with their best offensive series. On third-and-5 at their 46, Karstetter passed out of the double-wing set to a wide-open Hicks, who gained 39 to Richland's 15. Karstetter sprinted up the gut 15 yards on the next play for the touchdown.

Ferris lost all three of its fumbles in the first half.

The Saxons couldn't turn the momentum in the second half.

Four Richland running backs combined for 255 yards. Whitty completed 9 of 21 passes for 147 yards.

Karstetter finished with 73 yards on 12 carries.

"We came out firing, but turnovers really killed us," Karstetter said. "It sucks going out with a loss, but they played well and we shot ourselves with all the turnovers. I've got to tip my cap to them, they just beat us."

Sharkey said it didn't help the game got away fast.

"We didn't handle the adversity well early," Sharkey said. "When it went from (7-0) to (21-0) right then it was tough."

Richland 35, Ferris 7

Richland	0	21	0	0	7
Ferris	0	7	0	0	7

Rc-Perry 2 run (Ratz kick)
Rc-Nelson 13 pass from Whitty (Ratz kick)
Rc-Willis fumble recovery in end zone (Ratz kick)
Fc-Karstetter 15 run (Boulaurier kick)
Rc-Perry 3 run (Ratz kick)
Rc-McGeorge 57 pass from Whitty (Ratz kick)

	Rc	Fc
First downs	19	15
Rushes-yards	53-256	23-96
Comp-Att-Int	9-21-1	10-33-4
Passing yards	147	184
Punts-avg	3-53.1	1-48
Fumbles-lost	2-1	3-3
Penalties-yards	4-44	3-32

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Richland, Perry 14-55, Galat 3-12, Peterson 7-21, Phillips 9-50, Mackey 1-2, Whitty 1-(-1), Ferris, Hicks 6-16, Karstetter 12-73, Parker 2-2, Olson 3(-4).

PASSING—Richland, Whitty 9-21-147, Ferris, Olson 11-21-2-67, Parker 6-10-2-58, Karstetter 1-10-39.

RECEIVING—Richland, McGeorge 4-99, Radtff 2-20, H Whitty 1-6, Galat 1-9, Nelson 1-13, Ferris, Hicks 2-46, Taylor 7-76, Davis 1-3, Karstetter 3-15, Kirby 5-44.

Richland players celebrate a touchdown after a Bombers kickoff was fumbled by Ferris, and a Richland player recovered it in the end zone.



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