

Bombers take away win in Spokane

GREG LEE

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

SPOKANE — 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 Class 4A play-in football game Friday at Joe Albi Stadium.

The Greater Spokane League's 4A post-season 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 and hauled in seven turnovers.

"Even if it was an even-up game, it was going to be a tough night," Ferris coach Jim Sharkey 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.

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 Whitby hit Mason Nelson for a 13-yard TD pass for a 14-0 lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, Cole Karstetter muffed the catch and the ball bounded toward the goal line. He then tried to jump on the ball and it squirted away into the



Jesse Tinsley | Spokesman Review

Richland's Jesse Malone, left, picks off a pass in front of Ferris receiver Jalen Hicks for a key turnover in Friday's game at Joe Albi Stadium.

end zone where the Bombers' Lakota Willis pounced on it for a TD.

And 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 the Saxons 46, Karstetter passed out of the double-wing set to a wide-open Jalen Hicks, who gained 39 to Richland's 15. Karstetter sprinted up the gut 15 yards on the next play for the TD.

Ferris lost all three fumbles in the first half.

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

Four Richland running backs combined for 255 yards. Whitby completed 9 of 21 attempts for another 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."