

Chiawana's Corey Bell jumps over Richland's McKlaine Elgin during Friday's game at Edgar Brown Stadium in Pasco. The Riverhawks looked every bit the part of defending state champs in the 41-0 victory. See more photos online at [tricityherald.com](http://tricityherald.com)



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CHIAWANA 41, RICHLAND 0

# Riverhawks rise up in victory

Chiawana, Richland come together in show of support for Mac Graff

JEFF MORROW

TRI-CITY HERALD SPORTS EDITOR

The community came out to support the Graff family and the Chiawana Riverhawks on Friday night at Edgar Brown Stadium.

Before the game, the Richland Bombers, Chiawana's opponent, hung up a sign in support of Mac Graff — Riverhawks coach Steve Graff's youngest son — on their side of the field. Bomber coaches even wore shirts saying "Graff Strong."

But when the game started, Chiawana was back to business in a 41-0 rout of the Bombers. Riverhawks running back Austin Urlacher

rushed for 196 yards and three touchdowns to put the game away in the first half.

It ended a long week for the Riverhawks, who learned last Saturday that Mac Graff — a junior starting defensive back — fell while out hunting and suffered a serious back injury. He has been in intensive care since then and has little feeling from the waist down.

"We were playing for our brother Mac out

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## RISE | Graff grateful for support

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there," Urlacher said. "Mac would do the same for us."

Steve Graff looked worn out after the victory. He said he depended on his coaches to put together a game plan and keep the team focused. Most of his staff has been with him for at least 15 years, so it wasn't a hard task.

"Our coaches do a great job," Graff said. "I don't do anything except the paperwork. I got to practice every day this week except for the Sunday meeting."

Richland players came up to the Riverhawks' coach after the game and lined up to hug him.

"The community has been amazing," Graff said. "So has the Pasco School District. So have the Richland Bombers."

So have all of the other Mid-Columbia Conference schools. Hanford High School's Leadership Class, for example, raised \$1,100 for the Graffs at the Falcons' game against Pasco.

And it was announced during the game that with all of the fundraisers that started three days ago, more than \$30,000 has been raised for Mac's medical costs by the community.

As for the game, Chiawana did nothing surprising. The Riverhawks ran their bread-and-butter play, a handoff deep in the backfield to Urlacher. Richland couldn't stop it.

It has been that way for years for Graff's teams since his days at Pasco High and now Chiawana: They tell the defense what they're running; now try to stop it.

"That's exactly what it is," Urlacher said. "Coach Graff and (Richland) coach Neidhold were joking last week. Coach Neidhold said, 'I know

what you're going to run.'"

The difference?

"We execute it really well," Graff said.

But as well as the Chiawana offense played, the Riverhawks' defense might have been even better.

"We really stepped up," said Chiawana linebacker Caleb Weber, who had eight tackles, including a quarterback sack. "We knew they had good speed. But we did a lot of film watching this week and came prepared. It was a rough week, and we were just trying to get ready."

Graff agreed.

"The defense has played really well," he said with a smile.

Corey Bell added two touchdowns for the Riverhawks on runs of 4 and 72, and Andrew Vargas finished the scoring with a 9-yard run.

"Chiawana is better than we are," Neidhold said. "They were more physical on the line of scrimmage. They were faster than we were. They were tougher than we were."

"It was a great night for Chiawana with all of the adversity they went through this week."

Richland.....	0	0	0	0	-	0
Chiawana.....	7	14	14	6	-	41

### SCORING PLAYS

- C - Austin Urlacher 8 run (Matt Winn kick)
- C - Urlacher 15 run (Winn kick)
- C - Urlacher 8 run (Winn kick)
- C - Corey Bell 4 run (Winn kick)
- C - Bell 72 run (Winn kick)
- C - Andrew Vargas 9 run (bad snap, kick failed)

### STATISTICS

RUSHING—R, Josh Phillips 15-56, Ryan Wolski 1-22, Kyle Whitby 4-6, Jacob Heinen 3-1, Taylor O'Toole 2-minus 17, C, Urlacher 26-193, Vargas 6-98, Bell 5-64, Logan Ellsworth 4-20, Dre Dorton 1-4, Troy Stimpkins 1-4, Cortez Ruiz 2-4.

PASSING—R, O'Toole 11-27-1-61, C, Ellsworth 4-9-3-77.

RECEIVING—R, Griffay March 5-38, Rhett Levin 3-19, McKlaine Elgin 1-3, Savon Guajardo 1-1, Phillips 1-0, C, Isalah Richie 1-26, Josh Wilson 1-26, Chris Penny 1-7, Brader Corkrum 1-8.

FIRST DOWNS—R 8, C 17 FUMBLES-LOST—R 1-1, C 2-0. PENALTIES-YARDS—R 5-46, C 9-101.