

PREP FOOTBALL

Bombers perfect in MCC at 7-0

JEFF MORROW
TRI-CITY HERALD

It could have been a trap game for Mike Neidhold's Richland football team.

His Bombers had already clinched the Mid-Columbia Conference title last week, and now it was just about finishing with a win to complete a perfect MCC regular season.

And that's what happened Thursday night at Lampson Stadium, as Richland scored touchdowns the first four times its offense touched the ball, then coasted to a 28-2 victory over the Southridge Suns.

With the win, Richland finishes the regular season with a 7-0 MCC record, 8-1 overall. They play at home next Friday against either Lewis & Clark or Mead in a Class 4A regional playoff game.

Thursday's win was helped by the Bombers forcing six Southridge turnovers — five of those by the Richland defense, one of the strongest units to come out of the Tri-Cities in years.

"Our kids have been great," Neidhold said. "The whole process started last December. They were not satisfied how last season went and committed to a hard offseason in the weight room and with me."

And it all starts with the defense, getting all of those turnovers.

"I know we like to get to the ball," said Neidhold. "Our guys like to play fast. We do a lot of the same things that the



Sarah Gordon Tri-City Herald

Richland High School's Griffey March (3) and Kyle Kirby (9) combine on a tackle of Southridge High School's Cody Sturdefant (45) during Thursday's game at Neil F. Lampson Stadium in Kennewick. See more photos at www.tricityherald.com.

Seattle Seahawks and the Huskies do."

Like the Seahawks?

Maybe it's time we start calling the Richland defensive unit the Legion of Bomb.

The Bombers held the speedy Southridge 1-2 punch of Samuel Kori and Zayid Al-Ghani to 118 yards combined rushing.

Richland also recovered two Suns fumbles in Bombers territory, and Alex Chapman picked off Southridge quarterback Mason Martin in the

end zone as time expired in the first half.

Meanwhile, Richland scored 21 points in the first quarter on Lakota Wills touchdown runs of 5 and 1 yards, and a 4-yard scoring run by McKlane Elgin. By the time teammate Kyle Whitby scored on a 1-yard dive just 48 seconds into the second quarter, it was 28-0 Richland.

And the Bombers were on their way to a perfect MCC season.

Southridge	0 0 0 2 - 2
SCORING PLAYS	
R - Lakota Wills 5 run (Ryan Wolski kick)	
R - Wills 1 run (Wolski kick)	
R - McKlane Elgin 4 run (Wolski kick)	
R - Kyle Whitby 1 run (Wolski kick)	
S - Safety, Richland recovers fumble in own end zone	
STATISTICS	
RUSHING - R, Elgin 1-34, Wills 6-32, Whitby 6-23, Paxton Stevens 6-17, Ben Starfield 2-2, Victor Strasser 1-minus 3, S, Samuel Kori 17-65, Zayid Al-Ghani 13-53, Jordan Walter 10-50, Juan Borrero 1-24, Jacob Newby 2-6, Mason Martin 4-2, Derrick Gillespie 1-minus 1, Noah Weber 2-minus 3.	
PASSING - R, Stevens 14-24-146, Cade Jensen 0-10-0, S, Martin 3-9-144, Kori 1-10-3.	
RECEIVING - R, Rhett Levin 6-76, Griffey March 2-21, Ryan Piper 1-20, Wolski 1-20, Elgin 1-11, Alex Chapman 1-11, Breckan Gallier 1-6, Tommy Reed 1-minus 2, S, Cody Sturdefant 2-40, Gillespie 1-4, Bryson Kelly 1-3.	

Richland 21 7 0 0 - 28