

# Sports



SARAH GORDON Tri-City Herald

Chiawana's Andrew Vargas (14) pushes Kennewick's Blake Loftus, right, and Andrew Fridley to score a touchdown during Thursday's Mid-Columbia Conference football game at Lampson Stadium in Kennewick. Vargas scored three touchdowns in the first quarter. The game did not end by press time but is posted at [tricityherald.com/sports](http://tricityherald.com/sports).

## PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW | WEEK 5

# Key matchups on tap in MCC

■ **Southridge will take aim at one of the league's top offenses. Hanford looks for first conference win against Kamiakin. Richland tries to extend undefeated start against Pasco. Burbank travels to Connell in SCAC.**

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Despite sporting a 1-1 Mid-Columbia Conference record heading into Week 5 of the regular season, Walla Walla High School's offense has rolled to the tune of 90

points and 890 yards through its first two league games.

The Blue Devils (2-2 overall) will likely face the toughest defense they've encountered this season when they take on the Southridge Suns (2-2, 1-1 MCC) at 7 p.m. Friday at

Lampson Stadium.

The Suns held Pasco to just 243 yards in their 27-7 Week 3 victory over the Bulldogs, and they kept the Richland passing attack grounded for the first half last week, eventually falling to the No. 1 Bombers 26-10.

Southridge coach Keith Munson said his team is looking forward to the challenge of slowing down a Blue Devils offense that is second in the conference in both scoring (45 points per game) and yards gained (456.5 per game).

"Their quarterback is very fast, and their line is big, so we've got to try to get around those Coke machines of linemen," Munson said. "Our emphasis this

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week is giving up no yards after contact, YACs. We gave up too many of those last week and the previous week. When we tackle, we need to get people on the ground immediately."

Walla Walla features a weapon unlike any the Suns have encountered this season: senior quarterback and three-sport star Mitch Lesmeister. The league leader in total offense (1,343 combined rushing and passing yards), Lesmeister has almost single-handedly kept Walla Walla in games this season, in spite of the Blue Devils allowing a league-high 418.3 yards and 37.8 points per game on defense.

Southridge senior linebacker Corey Bibe — one of the team's leaders with 33 tackles — will be one of the key players responsible for keeping Lesmeister in check.

"Richland liked to pass the ball, Walla Walla likes to run the ball, so it's more action for us up front," Bibe said. "It'll be a good game. I'm excited for it."

Despite entering the third week of MCC play with the

No. 2 scoring and total offense, Blue Devils coach Eric Hisaw said his team has left a lot of points on the field.

"We're young. We've got three sophomores starting up front, so we're really green up behind the ears," Hisaw said. "But that's gotta go away. We're in Week 5, and we've gotta play better up front."

Walla Walla fell to Kennewick 41-40 last week after giving up 20 points in the fourth quarter to go to overtime, and then failing on a two-point conversion after scoring a touchdown in OT — the result of the team's struggles with kicking. The week prior, the Blue Devils narrowly escaped Fran Rish Stadium with a 50-48 win over Hanford, as Falcons sophomore quarterback Garrett Horner threw for 290 yards and three scores, two of which came in the fourth quarter.

**AROUND THE MCC KAMIAKIN AT HANFORD:** The Braves (3-1, 1-1) took their frustration out on Pasco last Friday following their

Week 3 loss to Chiawana, dispatching the Bulldogs 56-6.

Senior quarterback Zach Borisch will look to lead the Kamiakin offense in a potential shootout against Horner and the Falcons (2-2, 0-2), who are still looking for their first MCC win of the season.

Hanford — which is giving up 372.3 yards per game (seventh in the MCC) — spent almost all of last week in an eight-in-the-box defensive formation that was fairly successful in slowing down Chiawana senior running back Andrew Vargas. However, quarterback Troy Simpkins and the Riverhawks offense rose to the occasion and trounced the Falcons 49-14.

**RICHLAND AT PASCO:** Hoping to get their offense back on track after a sluggish start last week, the Bombers (4-0, 2-0) will take on the struggling Bulldogs (0-4, 0-2) at Edgar Brown Stadium.

Richland senior wide receiver/cornerback Alex Chapman continued to establish himself as one of the league's top athletes, hauling in six passes for 158 yards and two touchdowns against Southridge.

## SMALL SCHOOLS COLUMBIA-BURBANK AT CONNELL:

While the Eagles (4-0, 2-0 SCAC East) have a huge game looming — their Oct. 14 matchup with Royal will likely determine the conference champion — they should get a pretty stiff challenge from the Coyotes (2-2), who have won both of their league contests.

Burbank junior quarterback Reece Humphreys has shown poise beyond his years, accounting for 253 yards passing, 92 rushing and four touchdowns in a Week 4 win over Kiona-Benton.

Quarterback Brian Hawkins, running back Jaxs Whitby and tight end Steven Kroontje continued to lead Connell in its 48-13 win over Warden last week. Whitby scampered for 97 yards and three touchdowns, and Hawkins threw four touchdown passes, one of which went to Kroontje.

Other local matchups include East Valley at Prosser, Royal at Wahluke, River View at Kiona-Benton, Warden at College Place, Tri-Cities Prep at White Swan, Mabton at DeSales, Dayton-Waitsburg at Lyle-Wishram and Liberty Christian at Kittitas.

## MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

	Lg	All
Chiawana	2-0	4-0
Richland	2-0	4-0
Kamiakin	1-1	3-1
Kennewick	1-1	2-2
Southridge	1-1	2-2
Walla Walla	1-1	2-2
Hanford	0-2	2-2
Pasco	0-2	0-4