

NORTHWESTERN RED RAIDERS



All photos by Zac Lucy, courtesy of Northwestern College



Red Raider Michael Storey laid out completely on this catch, one of seven for 50 yards.

the second with a Jalyn Gramstad completion to Storey to reach the Keiser 38-yard line. The potent Seahawks defense then caught Jalyn Gramstad behind the line of scrimmage twice for a loss of 18 yards. Snyder was called for a fourth-down punt.

That punt was downed, Schouten touching the ball at the Keiser two-yard line. "Jaden has done a great job all year punting the ball," McCarty said. "Tanner had a great play."

The Seahawks put together their first of several sustained drives of the game, mixing rushes by Marques Burgess and Jaden Meizenger with passes from Spencer to Jaylen Arnold and to Myles Henderson, Henderson looping in one good for 48 yards to put the Seahawks on the Raider four-yard line.

In the goal-line scrum that followed, the Raiders committed two infractions, a pass interference call in the end zone and a face-mask penalty. With the ball on the two-yard line, Burgess covered the last ground for the first TD of the game.

That drive, said McCarty, "was really impressive. A couple of plays we thought we had stops but couldn't come up with a big play."

The Raiders announced themselves again, scoring in seconds with a stunning single play after Storey returned the kick-off to the NWC 31. Jalyn Gramstad anticipated a Cade Moser pattern on the first play from scrimmage, tossing to the center of the field,

the senior wide receiver running under the pass and completing the play with an untouched ramble to the end zone. It was an 11-second response.

"It's the first time we've trailed since the Concordia game," McCarty said. "The way we responded was just huge. That type of game, falling behind for the first time in a long time, that response was really important."

The first half closed with Keiser with the ball and 1:18 left, Red Raider Morris Hofer batting the ball out of Spencer's upraised hand on an attempted pass. The teams went into the locker rooms with the 7-7 tie.

"That play was big," said McCarty of Hofer's disruption.

At the half, the Seahawks had made up some ground. The Raiders had worked for 166 yards, the Seahawks for 119. The Keiser offense had 29 offensive plays, the Raiders 27. Jalyn Gramstad completed seven of 12 passes in that half of play, 135 yards in the aerial game.

Productive third quarter

Between the two teams in the third quarter, they scored 24 points, the Raiders holding a slight 21-17 edge as the fourth quarter began.

"We really just wanted to keep sticking with our game plan," McCarty said. "We felt we were really good with what we had. We felt if we could execute really well, we'd be in a good spot at the end of the game."

On their first possession of the quarter and after three plays and a first down, the Raiders unbundled another big play, Cade Moser taking the ball on an end around, dodging a would-be tackler and going 62 yards to pay dirt.

"Cade was the fastest kid on the field," McCarty said. "In the clear, nobody was going to catch him. Brendan Zeutenhorst and Michael Storey had good blocks on that play."

Another sustained Seahawks drive tied the score at 14s. Louis Lubin returned the kick-off for 35 yards, and Keiser worked from their 38-yard line for the tying drive. The Raiders held up that drive with a third-down stand, a Snyder tackle stopping Burgess two yards short of fresh downs. The Seahawks converted on the fourth-down play. Spencer found Arnold on a 19-yard pass play to reach the Raider 21-yard line. Meizenger ran the remaining yards on three hand-offs to tie the contest 14-all.

"They were running the ball pretty well," said McCarty. "They made some adjustments at half time. They did a good job keeping us off balance, and it took us a little while to make our own adjustments. It's was a chess game making adjustments to how they played the game."

Seahawk Brian Edwards stripped the ball from Michael Storey on a catch on the Raiders' next possession, and found itself in prime

field position at the Raider 18-yard line.

The Raiders prevented easy points, though, stopping the Seahawks short of a first down, and Keiser had to settle for a field goal from the Raiders 26-yard line.

McCarty thought the Raiders' goal-line stand was the turning point of the contest. "Our offense fumbled, and our defense went out there and held them to a three-and-out. We forced them to kick a field goal. After that, we really took over."

With just four plays, the Raiders responded from a rocky start on the kick-off and covered 97 yards after four plays to take a 21-17 lead. Jalyn Gramstad danced for 16 yards on the first play. McQuillan added eight more. Jalyn Gramstad kept for nine more before completing a toss to McQuillan who turned on the speed along the sideline for a 64-yard ramble.

Deciding quarter

The Raider defensive line prevented a fourth-down try as Keiser

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Red Raider quarterback Jalyn Gramstad helped put the game away offensively with a 19-yard TD run late in the fourth quarter.

SCOREBOARD

Basketball

Red Raider women 64, Dakota State 80
Dutch boys 78, George-Little Rock 54
Dutch girls 55, George-Little Rock 43
Knight boys 64, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn 67
Knight girls 81, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn 41

Football

NAIA National Series Championship
Red Raiders 35, Keiser 25

Wrestling

Dutch boys 52, Sioux Central 30
Dutch boys 24, Hinton 45
Dutch boys 42, Sioux City North 43
Paul Fuhrman Tournament
Dutch placed second with a team score of 166
Champion was Sterling Haack at 160

