

RED RAIDER INTERCEPTION DASHED LATE SEAHAWK HOPES

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opened the fourth quarter needing just a yard for a fresh series. Korbyn Gramstad and Ben Kingery stopped Meizenger short at midfield.

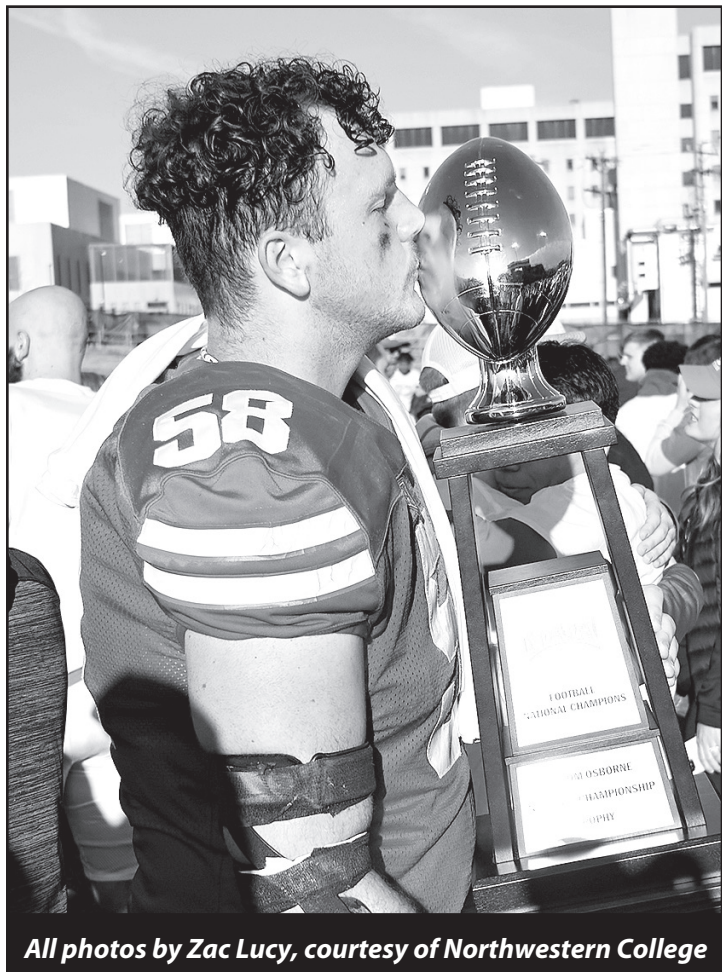
The Red Raiders took the first step to putting the game on ice on its ensuing possession. Jalyn Gramstad found Blake Anderson for a 25-yard play, kept the ball to put the Raiders on the Seahawks four-yard line, then flicked an aerial to Anderson who was heading for the corner of the end zone. Anderson made the catch and waltzed past the goal line for the TD and a 28-17 lead.

"At that point, we were up 11," McCarty said. "We were comfortable forcing them to drive."

The defense advanced the Raider cause, momentarily, on the next Seahawks possession. Parker Fryar drew an unfortunate pass interference on an interception try.

With the ball back after the penalty, Bryce Veasley, who had taken on quarterback duties after Spencer was injured in the third quarter, rushed three times for 13 yards, then completed a touchdown pass to Michael Robinson. The Seahawks converted on the two-point extra try.

That 28-25 score was as close as the Seahawks would come as the game wound down. The Raiders used five of the last seven minutes with their next possession, Jalyn Gramstad showcasing running prowess with a first-down dash to the Raider 38, finding Schouten for another first down to the 50-yard line, steering clear of defenders for another 23-yard run to the Keiser 20-yard line, then finishing the drive with a 19-yard effort to the end zone.



All photos by Zac Lucy, courtesy of Northwestern College

Red Raider offensive lineman Travis Grover plants a kiss on the national trophy.



Red Raider Cade Moser racked up 158 yards and one rushing and one receiving touchdown.



Red Raider Tanner Schouten downed the ball on the Keiser two-yard line on a Jaden Snyder fourth-down kick.



Late in the game, Red Raider Jalyn Gramstad, offensive player of the game, kept Seahawk defenders off balance with elusive runs.



Red Raider safety Noah Van't Hof (5, on knees) helped put the game away defensively with an interception late in the fourth quarter.

"We were really able to rely on Jalyn moving his feet," McCarty said. "As the game wore on we just felt like we had numbers with Jalyn running the football. They were wearing out and Jalyn was fresh. He's elusive. He flustered their defense."

Any hope for a Keiser comeback was dashed by Van't Hof, who again looked like an intended receiver with a diving catch that went wide of the mark. Van't Hof's dagger took place on a second-and-10 play at the NWC 29-yard line.

The Raiders ran out the clock, Gramstad preventing one more touch by the Seahawks with an eight-yard run and dive that gave the Raiders the last first down of the game. Two hikes in the victory formation gave the Raiders the victory.

The Raider offense was 7-11 in third down conversions, the Seahawks 3-10.

Against a team that averaged 400 yards a game, the Raiders defense limited the Seahawks to 276, rushing at 114 yards, passing at 162. It was the Raider offense that finished the contest with big numbers: 472 yards, 225 rushing, 247 in the air.

Jalyn Gramstad earned offensive player of the game, 128 yards of rushing overtopping the 1,000-yard mark (last earned by Jacob Kalagonis in 2018). In the passing game, the sophomore was 14-19, was not intercepted and finished the season with 23 touchdowns, just one short of tying a single-season record.

Cade Moser had the single 64-yard carry. McQuillan got 13 hand-offs for 34 yards.

Meizenger had 16 carries for 53 yards to lead the Seahawks, Burgess 13 for 30. Veasley carried five times for 22 yards.

Cade Moser caught three for 94 of the Red Raider passing yards in a last season for the Raiders. McQuillan added 64 with one catch. Storey looped in seven for 50 yards, Anderson 28 yards on two catches. Schouten's one catch added 11 yards.

"Jalyn and Cade had some really big plays," McCarty said. "It was good to see Cade finish up with a big game, and Jalyn proved he is the best player in the country."

For the Seahawks, Spencer was 14-16 in passing for 122 yards, Veasley 3-6 for 40 more. Each was intercepted once.



Red Raiders Ben Kingery (38), Cody Moser (4), Parker Fryar (43) and Tyler Jones (8) swarm Keiser receiver Myles Henderson.



Red Raider Konner McQuillan carried the football 13 times for 34 yards and caught one for 64 yards and a touchdown.

Henderson and Arnold had five catches each to lead the Seahawks, Henderson getting 88 yards, Arnold 51. Seth Role had two catches for nine yards.

Van't Hof's interceptions and four tackles, three of them solo stops, contributed to defensive player-of-the game honors. Fryar led Red Raider in tackles with 12. Kingery had nine stops, Snyder eight, defensive lineman Tyler Jones seven solos (two for 11 yards of loss), Hofer six, Oleson five, Van't Hof and Jacob Dragstra four each. Cody Moser and Korbyn Gramstad each had three stops. Fryar, Dragstra and Drake Harder were also involved in tackles for loss. Hofer also forced a fumble.

"Noah Van't Hof made some outstanding plays," McCarty said. "TJ Jones, Morris Hofer and Jacob Dragstra were outstanding up front. TJ and Jacob did a good job all day. They didn't get there every time, but they made the quarterbacks uncomfortable. TJ has been a five-year starter for us, and he played the best game of his career."

For Keiser, Tivon Sutton had 11 tackles and got involved in one of the three sacks of Jalyn Gramstad. Jaelin Willis and Camron Allen each had eight stops, Alessandro Cant five (two were for 12 yards of loss, one an 11-yard sack). With four tackles each were Wendol Philord (who also recovered a fumble and broke up a pass), Justin Carcel and Brendan Parr. With three stops and three pass break-ups each were Kensley Johnson, Louis Lubin (who had a seven-yard sack) and Brian Edwards (who forced a fumble).

Point-after specialists didn't miss, Eli Stader going 5-5 for the Raiders, Chance Gagnon 2-2 along with the field goal.

"We've had some really good depth the last few years," McCarty said, as the roster thins out a bit with graduates. "We've been able to play a lot of players this year. That will be good in the long run."



Blake Anderson heads for the end zone on one of two catches.

	1	2	3	4	T
Keiser	0	7	10	8	25
Northwestern	0	7	14	14	35

Scoring
2:04:51 KEISER Marques Burgess run one yard (Chance Gagnon kick) 2:04:33 NWC Cade Moser pass from Jalyn Gramstad 69 yards (Eli Stader kick) 3:12:57 NWC Cade Moser run 64 yards (Eli Stader kick) 3:08:21 KEISER Jaden Meizenger run two yards (Chance Gagnon kick) 3:05:16 KEISER Chance Gagnon field goal 3:03:33 NWC Konner McQuillan pass from Jalyn Gramstad 64 yards (Eli Stader kick) 4:11:05 NWC Blake Anderson pass from Jalyn Gramstad three yards (Eli Stader kick) 4:07:11 KEISER Bryce Veasley run one yard (Chance Gagnon kick) 4:01:59 NWC Jalyn Gramstad run 19 yards (Eli Stader kick) KEISER NWC

First downs	22	19
Rushes-Yards	37-114	39-225
Passes	17-22-2	14-19-0
Passing yards	162	247
Return yards	124	56
Punts-Yards	1-10	2-18
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-30	6-48

Individuals
Rushing — Jalyn Gramstad 22-128, Cade Moser 1-65, Konner McQuillan 13-34, Michael Story 1-1
Passing — Jalyn Gramstad 14-19-0
Receiving — Cade Moser 3-94, Konner McQuillan 1-64, Michael Story 7-50, Blake Anderson 2-28, Tanner Schouten 1-11
Tackling leaders — Parker Fryar 12, Ben Kingery 9, Jaden Snyder 8, Tyler Jones 7, Morris Hofer 6, Tanner Oleson 5, Noah Van't Hof 4, Jacob Dragstra 4, Cody Moser 3, Korbyn Gramstad 3