

# SPORTS



Patrick Shelby/Sunnyside Sun  
Sunnyside High School senior Jonathan Sanchez hauls in a pass reception and breaks free deep into the Mustang's defensive secondary in the first quarter Friday evening.

## SUNNYSIDE

### Decisive season opener is a 35-13 win over Prosser

The big rematch goes Sunnyside's way again

■ PATRICK SHELBY  
Reporter

PROSSER — Two first quarter interceptions by Sunnyside High School senior Jonathan Sanchez led to 16 unanswered points as the Grizzlies rolled to a 35-13 non-conference road win over the Prosser Mustangs at Art Fiker Stadium last Friday night.

SHS Coach Jon Lobbestael was ecstatic at his team's performance, "We just prepped a lot. Prosser has an incredibly high amount of stuff and they are good at everything. . . we tried to get as good as possible at recognizing what they were going to do."

He added his team's defensive play exceeded expectations through their physicality. Lobbestael noted, "The kids were really physical, more physical than I thought we would be the first game."

First season varsity quarterback, sophomore Logan Rodriguez said, "We watched film, we knew what we had to do, we came out and we did it."

Rodriguez threw for 202 yards, one touchdown, one interception and completed 12 out of 21 total passing attempts.

Lobbestael addressed his young quarterback's brand of football, "I thought he did a good job, he keeps the ball safe. He's smart, he seems to be really calm and collected. He doesn't get flustered really easily. . ."

Prosser's Head Coach Corey Ingvalson spoke about the game, "Oftentimes when you have a game like this, you have to give credit to the other guys. I thought Sunnyside played really well, they played really physical."

Prosser Mustang senior quarterback Haden Hicks suffered a season ending injury with a broken collarbone.

According to Ingvalson, Hicks' tenure as a Mustang has brought enormous contributions to the game. "Haden is a special player. He has that ability to get outside of the pocket and make some things happen," Ingvalson added.

The Mustangs scored on a "Hail Mary" pass play right before the half, cutting Sunnyside's lead 22-7. Grizzly Nation filled the visitor's section and cheered the team as they left the field for intermission.

Sunnyside fumbled the second half kickoff and Prosser took advantage of the costly turnover and punched it in for a touchdown. Following the extra point, Sunnyside led 22-13.

The Mustangs regained the momentum, but the Grizzlies' offense answered right back. Sophomore Devin Escamilla capped off an impressive drive with a run up the middle for a touchdown, making the score 28-13 with 9:44 remaining in the third quarter.

The Grizzlies' defense dominated the game from the opening with relentless pressure on Prosser quarterback Hicks while the secondary's coverage made a total of three interceptions.

Early in the fourth quarter, SHS

senior wide receiver Mike Rivera caught a 77-yard pass and catch from Rodriguez for a touchdown to make it 35-13.

Grizzly sophomore, Devin Escamilla recorded three catches for 23 yards and ran for 90 total yards and scored one touchdown. Jonathan Sanchez caught four catches for 42 yards and two interceptions for 50 combined yards.

Quarterback Hicks threw for 202 total passing yards. He was 18 for 26 completed attempts and had 12 yards rushed. He threw three interceptions and one touchdown.

Senior, Case Reinmuth had four catches for 98 yards. Sophomore QB Kaiden Rivera was 4 for 10 and threw for 56 passing yards.

In the two-year re-rivalry, season opening football games, Sunnyside has won both contests.

■ Patrick Shelby can be contacted at 509-837-4500, ext. 110 or email PShelby@SunnysideSun.com



Prosser High School junior Haden Hicks is forced out of the pocket by the Grizzlies' defensive pass rush and scrambles around the left end late in the second half.

### Knights tripped up by fighting Irish

■ DANNY SANDOVAL  
Reporter

WALL WALLA — Sunnyside Christian started their 2019 season with a 1B non-conference loss to the DeSales Irish, 62-20 at Ty Baffney Field in Walla Walla, on Friday, Sept. 6.

While the maroon and gold Knights fell short in their first 2019 season outing, it showed Head Coach Jeremy Thomas what areas the young, but hustling team needs to work on. Thomas spoke about his team's performance, ". . . (They) started off pretty good, but then started getting tired and tried to keep up with them and they were a big physical team. . . we got worn down."

DeSales' eight-man squadron were unbent in their physicality.

Thomas expressed his confidence to his team during the game, ". . . Keep your heads up, work hard, use this as a learning experience."

The Knights were outscored but tenacious with their efforts throughout the game. 32-14 in the first quarter, tied 6-6 for points in second quarter, trailed 16-0 in third, and short 8-0 in the fourth for the 62-20 final score.

The Knights started five seniors as well as three sophomores. Thomas added his sophomores played "pretty well," with switched roles.

Kolby Thomas was moved to running back and wide receiver. Jordan Lemon debuted at center, while Jaden Jech played receiver, with one catch.

Both Thomas and Jech played the entire game cycling through offense, defense, and special teams, Thomas detailed.

Starting a new offense this year, the Knights have potential according to Thomas but need to ". . . fine tune a few more things."

The team goal was to determine which plays worked, and which did not. Thomas noted the Knights will continue to re-watch games to see what plays need to be added or subtracted.

The hometown team will play Yakama Nation Tribal School on Sept. 13, in Toppenish, at 3:30 pm.

■ Danny Sandoval can be contacted at 509-837-4500, ext. 120 or email DSandoval@SunnysideSun.com



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