

Sports

RANGERS TO ROLL TO 66-22 WIN

Where is the Love? In the end zone

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Jayden Love got a view of the Quilcene football field that most eighth-graders don't get.

An aerial view.

And he got his look from above not once, but twice — courtesy of Ranger senior Kevin Alejo.

Love, a running back on the Quilcene varsity football team, was hoisted by Alejo high into the air two times during the Rangers' ransacking of the Muckleshoot Kings in football last week.

Both came in the fourth quarter. The first was after Love ran 45 yards for a touchdown, and the second, after another final-stanza score where the 130-pound frosh scampered 40 yards untouched for his second TD of the evening.

That second touchdown got Ranger quarterback Nathan Kieffer's attention.

Kieffer had scored the first touchdown of the Rangers' 66-22 shellacking of the Kings, on a quarterback keeper that stretched into a 35-yard scoring run.

Looking over at Love held high in the air, Kieffer joked from the sidelines: "He's going to score more touchdowns than me in this game."

To be sure, it didn't seem like the Rangers had shown much love at all for Muckleshoot during the game.

Love came in at the end of the game, with other second-team substitutions, as the contest was well out of reach as Ranger Coach Trey Beathard finally got a chance to put some of his younger players into the game.

That hadn't happened in the team's earlier games this year, closer affairs that put the notion out of mind, Beathard said.

Indeed, the dominating win by Quilcene came after their previous nailbiter against the Lummi Blackhawks, a game that found the Rangers on the lesser end of a 28-22 score.

Last week's game couldn't have been more different.

It was their first of the season at home, for one.

Still, there were a few moments that looked familiar.

"We made some mistakes," Beathard said.

Even so, he added, there were plenty of highlights to go around, and the coach added that he was proud of how his team responded, given one of the team's top players was out and the Rangers had been dinged by COVID concerns in



Jayden Love takes it to the house for six points in the fourth quarter against the Kings. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*

recent weeks.

The Rangers jumped to a 14-0 advantage after the first quarter and held the Kings scoreless through the half, entering the third quarter with a 27-0 advantage.

Alejo scored the second TD of the game on an 8-yard run, and also put six more on the board in the second with a 20-yard touchdown dash.

A pick six by Isaiah Reimann



Kevin Alejo hoists Jayden Love into the air after one of his two touchdowns. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*

gave the Rangers their last touchdown of the first half.

Muckleshoot finally found the end zone in the third, but missed the point-after try.

The Rangers scored 39 second-half points to close out the scoring.

Both touchdowns in the third came courtesy of the arm of Kieffer; first, a 4-yard toss to Ashton Johnston, followed by a 32-yard reception by Alejo.

Reimann uncapped a 30-yard run for a touchdown in the fourth, and the other score — beyond the two

from Love — was a 60-yard touchdown run by Shannon Kutler.

Alejo finished with 13 carries for two TDs and 157 yards rushing.

Kieffer had 51 yards rushing, with carries and a touchdown.

Shannon Kutler cruised for 106 yards on seven carries, while Reimann had 59 yards on three carries.

Love finished with 92 yards on five runs.

Kieffer connected on seven-of-11 passes for 92 yards and two TDs.

Alejo had two receptions for

34 yards and a touchdown, while Dominic Smith had a pair of catches for 26 yards.

Johnston had two receptions for 21 yards and one TD.

On the defensive, Alejo had 10 tackles and two interceptions.

Smith contributed two sacks and 12 tackles, while Johnston added 11 tackles.

Taylor Boling added five tackles for the Rangers, and also caused two fumbles and recovered a fumble.

Walter Beck also had nine tackles for Quilcene.



Kevin Alejo busts loose for an extended carry last week against Muckleshoot. He finished the game with 152 rushing yards on 13 carries. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*

Rivals pitch a shutout, winning big against Vashon

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East Jefferson earned its second varsity football win in a row late last week against Vashon Island. The Rivals kept the Pirates scoreless until the final whistle in the Friday night contest, winning 19-0.

East Jefferson's defense came up big, keeping the Pirates out of the end zone while tallying four sacks on the night.

Junior defensive end Siaumau Ausega led the Rivals with five tackles along with two sacks, while junior linebacker Tanner Haddenham tallied four tackles, as well.

While the defense stuffed the Pirates throughout the game, East Jefferson's offense played well, scoring three touchdowns before the final whistle.

Senior running back Logan Massie scored two touchdowns, with two big runs from 32 and 25 yards out. The senior found space all night, finishing with 163 rushing yards.

Anton Jones, senior running back for the Rivals, found the end zone as well with a seven-yard run and a total of 43 rushing yards.

East Jefferson's senior punt returner Lonnie Kenney had a 35-yard punt return, and Rivals sophomore quarterback Cash Holmes completed four-of-six passing attempts for 40

yards.

Although Rivals Head Coach Tony Haddenham was happy to add one to the win column, he was not fully satisfied with the team's performance.

"We weren't playing mistake-free football like we should have been," Haddenham said.

The Rivals accumulated 85 yards in penalty yards in the game, much to the displeasure of the head coach.

"We had more yards in penalties than Vashon had in total yards in the first half," Haddenham said. Fortunately for East Jefferson, the penalties didn't kill any drives. But the team "not being disciplined" will be something to address for Haddenham before their next game.

Regardless, Haddenham said he was "feeling pretty good" about his team.

"The kids fought for everything," the coach said.

In practice this week, Haddenham is bringing the basics back, including footwork, route running, and positioning to reduce avoidable mistakes on the field.

The team needs to "get those things done in order to be more successful," and put more points on the board, Haddenham said.

Next up on East Jefferson's schedule is Cascade Christian at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8.



Senior fullback Anson Jones powers past a Pirate defender to earn some yards for the Rivals offense. *Photo by Lisa Jensen*