

VIKING GAMEDAY 2009

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SPECIAL PLAYOFF ISSUE OF GAMEDAY

WHITMAN BEATS CHURCHILL 28-24 & MAKES PLAYOFFS AS 2ND SEED IN 4A WEST



VIKINGS WIN HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE AFTER SPRINGBROOK TROUNCES PAINT BRANCH 20-0

There were so many Whitman fans at the Churchill Whitman showdown last Friday it was hard to tell that the Vikings were the visitors. That was a good thing because Whitman's away record after nine games was better than its record at home. So it was the best of both worlds for the Vikings at Churchill's stadium last Friday. An away game with a home crowd.

Churchill's QB Alex Kantor ran the ball 9-yards to put the Bulldogs ahead, 7-0, less than one minute into the game. Undaunted, Vikings QB Henry Kuhn evened the score with an 8-yard touchdown pass to WR Michael Flack late in the first quarter and Danny Lee's first of four successful extra point kicks of the game. The teams appeared well matched, and the score at the end of the first quarter remained 7-7. The Bulldogs dominated during most of the second quarter, with a 20-yard touchdown pass by Kantor followed by a 23-yard field goal. Suddenly the score was 17 to 10. Churchill had a 10 point lead over Whitman.

The Whitman crowd was silenced. But only for a few seconds. That's all it took for Rico Djidotor to hold onto the ball after it hit his face mask on the kick return and run 87-yards for a touchdown, a touchdown that changed the game's momentum from Churchill to Whitman. Churchill WR Churchill senior Brandon Swepson told the Gazette, "That kickoff return changed the game," and it did. Although Churchill still led at the half, 17-14, and would lead again in the third quarter, Whitman took control of the game and never looked back.

Five minutes into the second half, the Vikings took the lead for the first time when RB Kevin Cecala scored his first touchdown of the game with a 1-yard run. The seesaw continued with Kantor's 36-yard touchdown pass with seconds left in the third quarter, returning the lead to Churchill 24-21. Then the Vikings scored 7 minutes into the fourth quarter on Cecala's 2-yard run, Whitman 28-Churchill 24. For the remainder of the game, the Vikings controlled the clock, never letting Churchill get close to the ball again. It was perfectly done and perfectly satisfying.

HOW THE VIKINGS SCORED



FLACK TD Q1



4 LEE KICKS



DJIDOTOR TD Q2



CECALA TD Q3



CECALA TD Q4

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Many players contributed to the win over Churchill in addition to Michael Flack, Danny Lee, Rico Djidotor and Henry Kuhn. Craig Frasier had 4 receptions for a total of 76 yards and Larry Kline caught for 55 yards. Sissan Nejad and Miles Davis also had noteworthy performances. The entire offensive line was outstanding in the 4th quarter, holding onto the ball and controlling the clock until the end. But the Player of the Game has to be Kevin Cecala who refused to lose to Churchill. He rushed for 106 yards and two touchdowns, including the one that won the game and put Whitman in the playoffs.

