

The EMAK Report

**King's upsets top ranked
Nooksack Valley 28 - 26.**



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King's High School Football
Building champions
while pursuing championships

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Knights win thriller against Nooksack Valley 28 – 26



Photo by Dianna Roach

On the first play of the game, Mak Kanzler recovered the opening kickoff to give the Knights the ball deep in Nooksack Valley territory.

King's was the better team in the fourth quarter.

By Sam Roach

In a game that was marked by big plays by both teams, the Knights made the plays when they mattered and defeated the number one ranked Nooksack Valley Pioneers last Friday night 28 – 26 at Woolsey Stadium.

The game began with a big play as Matthew Williams' short kickoff bounced off of a Nooksack Valley receiver's shoulder pads and landed right in the arms of Mak Kanzler who was tackled on the Nooksack Valley 31 yard line. Three plays later, King's was on the scoreboard as Noah Clark hit Cole Adams for an 8 yard touchdown pass.

Williams added the PAT and the Knights took the first lead of the ball game 7 – 0.

Late in the first quarter, the Pioneers tied the game on a one yard run by Jackson Bennett and took their first lead of the game in the second quarter on a 48 yard run by Colton Lentz.

Midway and late in the second quarter, King's found the end zone twice to give themselves the lead. The first score came following a Kanzler interception deep in Nooksack Valley territory, as Clark ran for an 18 yard touchdown run on a quarterback keeper. The PAT failed on an errant snap from center but King's wasn't finished. Late in the quarter, Clark found Jack Fuller in the corner of the endzone for a 17

yard touchdown giving King's a five point lead 19 – 14.

The lead was short lived as Nooksack Valley quarterback Joey Brown scored on a 12 yard run just before halftime to give the Pioneers a one point lead.

On their first drive of the third quarter, King's took the lead again as Clark hit Kanzler on a 34 yard pass and then followed it two plays later with a nine yard slant route to Adams as the Knights regained the lead.

King's looked to be in a position to pull away toward the end of the third quarter but an interception gave Nooksack Valley a chance to regain the lead and they took advantage of it. Brown scored his second touchdown of the night on a six yard run to give the Pioneers a one point lead but King's was not finished.

In the fourth quarter, the Knights were the better team. Defensively, King's made several key stops when they had to and offensively, the Knights kept the pressure on Nooksack Valley. With 2:49 remaining in the game, Williams kicked a 27 yard field goal to give the Knights a lead that would hold up for the remainder of the game.

With the victory, King's record is now 3 – 0. The Knights' next game will be this Friday night against Mount Baker. Kick-off is at 7PM.

The EMAK Report

The Inside Stories

King's was the better team

"We're the better team." Those were the words that King's Defensive Coordinator Dave Taylor said when he came up to the field to start the third quarter. "We've missed a couple of tackles and given up a couple of long touchdown runs but we're the better team." Taylor was right. Last Friday night the Knights were the better team in many phases of the game and it was apparent from the outset.

Starting with the opening kickoff that bounced off the chest and into the hands of senior Mak Kanzler, the Knights were more focused and crisper than the number one ranked Pioneers. And in the first half, they took advantage of every opportunity presented to them to put points on the scoreboard. Following the opening kickoff, it took King's only three plays to score as Noah Clark hit Cole Adams for an 8-yard touchdown pass.

But that wasn't the only opportunity the Knight's took advantage of. Midway through the second quarter, Kanzler produced a second big play when he intercepted a Nooksack Valley pass at the Pioneers' 18-yard line. On the next play, Clark kept the ball on a counter and scored from 18 yards out.

Another way that King's was better than Nooksack Valley was in their quickness both on the interior line and in the skilled positions. Nooksack Valley has a strong offensive and defensive line and they made their share of plays and ran the ball effectively at times but as the game wore on the Knights' defensive front swarmed to the ball and made the stops when they had to, the biggest stop being late in the fourth quarter after Williams kicked a 27 yard field goal to give King's a two point lead and on fourth and one, the Knights' defense stopped the Pioneers' quarterback Joey Brown three inches short of a first down.



Photo by Dianna Roach



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King's was the better team (continued)

In terms of the passing game, the Nooksack Valley defenders were outmatched by the King's receivers. Clark threw for 259 yards and three touchdowns. In the second half he was especially effective with the deep pass as he found Kanzler for 34 yards, Caiden Castillo for 40 yards late in the third quarter and, with 4:40 remaining in the game, he hit Jack Fuller on a deep corner route for 30 yards to set up the winning field goal.

The last way that the Knights were the better team was that they were just mentally tougher than Nooksack Valley was. When Nooksack Valley made plays, King's just kept coming back and, in spite of adversity, King's never quit. Two noteworthy individual performances were turned in by Williams and Adams. Early in the fourth quarter, Williams missed a 37 yard field goal that sailed wide left but rather than sulk about it, he learned from it and made the game winning field goal. "I just got too excited the first time so the second time, I just kicked a little softer."

Cole Adams was just tough in the fourth quarter. Early in the quarter, he left with leg cramps and the medical staff treated him with water and two packets of mustard. For many high school players, that would have been the end of their night, but not Adams. He went back out on defense and with thirty seconds remaining, knocked down a pass in the end zone to seal the win for the Knights.

Make no mistake about last Friday's game. It featured two teams that could see each other again in November. Nooksack Valley is a good football team and going into that game, they were ranked first in state for a reason. They rushed for 260 yards and defensively sacked Clark four times but that night, as good as they were, they made mistakes. They were not the better team, especially in the fourth quarter when it mattered. That honor went to King's. King's was better that night.



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