

SPORTS

Riverdale, Mundy's Mill advance in playoffs

Madison's late TD locks up victory for Spartans, 26-14

By Don Coble
Clayton News/Daily

After a year of emotional ups and downs, the Riverdale Middle School Spartans picked a good time to play their best game — the quarterfinals of the Clayton County Championships.

L.J. Madison's 27-yard run for a touchdown with 31 seconds remaining locked up his team's 26-14 victory over Pointe South at chilly Tara Stadium.

The Spartans, now 4-3 having survived a school fire that destroyed their equipment early in the season, will continue its postseason joyride next Tuesday against Lovejoy. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. and the winner qualifies for the county championship a week later.

"The offensive line did the best of all," said Riverdale coach Rickey Hershey. "We didn't make very many mistakes and we played one of the best games of the year. I was happy."



Duggers leads Razorbacks 18-12

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One of the oldest adages in sports is big players make big plays. Proof of that was wearing No. 21 for Mundy's Mill Middle School Tuesday night.

Patrick Dugger not only recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter for the Razorbacks, he scored the winning touchdown to beat Kendrick in the first round of the Clayton County Championships at Tara Stadium.

Dugger's 4-yard run with 4:11 remaining gave Mundy's Mill an 18-12 lead. The 25-yard drive was made possible by Dugger's recovery of a Kendrick fumble.

"It was a tough game," Dugger said. "The quarterback tried to get away and Kyle Burrell made a big hit on him and he fumbled. I was there to recover it. Kendrick played a good game. It was a good challenge."

The Razorbacks, now 5-1-1, led 12-0 in the first half on touchdowns by Dugger and quarterback Chris Parker.

But as quickly as Mundy's Mill

Marshall, Kendrick made it 12-12 at intermission.

"We started out all right," said Razorbacks coach Jerry Anson. "It was 12-0 and we had the momentum. Then all of a sudden, Kendrick had the momentum."

"We didn't play our best game. But Patrick stepped up. He usually steps up for us. We're fortunate he's on our side."

Dugger's defensive play was matched by Burrell's stop of Greg Lee's sweep for a three-yard loss on a fourth-and-three situation for the Comets with a minute remaining to play. After that, the Razorbacks ran out the clock.

With the victory, Mundy's Mill advanced to next Tuesday's semifinals against second-seeded Babb. Kickoff at Tara Stadium is a 6 p.m.

For Kendrick, the Comets have a year to regroup. During its inaugural season a year ago, Kendrick was 1-5. In just their second season, the team qualified for the playoffs.

"We gave them a fumble, we gave them an opportunity, we gave them the momentum," said Comets coach Kim Braswell after his team finished with a 3-4 record. "We've never

Anwar Patterson, Phillip Bolden, Brandon Coley, Sean Collier and John Allen each contributed to the Spartans' success up front. Their work allowed Madison to score twice and Yoland Rice and Maurice Joyner to score once.

The biggest play came shortly after the Vikings cut Riverdale's lead to 18-12 midway in the fourth quarter. The Spartans drove to the Pointe South 27 and faced a fourth-and-five. But instead of getting the defensive stop and a chance to tie the game, Madison sprinted around right end for a touchdown that killed the Vikings' hopes.

"We've struggled with our outside containment all year and that was exposed tonight," said Pointe South coach Bob Ryan. "I would



Photo by Bill Yoder

Riverdale Middle School's Maurice Joyner blasts through the Pointe South defense for yardage Tuesday night during the Clayton County Championship tournament. Joyner had a touchdown in the Spartans' 26-14 win.

have thought if we scored 14 points that would have been enough to score. But their backs were good, they ran hard. Our kids played hard, so it wasn't that."

Madison's run to put the game away came after he changed the play shortly after the snap. The original call was to run off right tackle, but

before he got the ball, he was more determined to sprint around the end.

"I thought it would be better to go to the outside," he said. "I like running to the outside more. I made up my mind before the play to change it."

Said Hershey: "I wanted a sweep all along. That's what I had in mind."

store the momentum, the second-year Comets fired back. Buoyed by two touchdown runs by Padrick

been in the playoffs, so we know what to expect. Now do, we'll be back."



Photo by Wayne I

Kendrick's Padrick Marshall (10), who scored both of the Comets' touchdowns Tuesday night, looks for running room against Mundy's Mill at the Clayton County Championship tournament.