

SPORTS

West Sioux prepares for rematch with Sibley-Ocheyedan

Big plays help Falcons advance in first round

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Fifth-ranked West Sioux will be trying to run it back on Friday when it hosts Sibley-Ocheyedan for the second time this season, this time in a round of 16 of the Class A state football playoffs.

West Sioux defeated Sibley-Ocheyedan 35-14 on Sept. 12.

“In that game, our defense did a good job against their wide receivers. That’s where we excelled,” said West Sioux coach Ryan Schwiesow. “But if they are doing their jobs, as I’m sure they are, they are going to change things from the way they did them the first time we played. That means we are going to have to do some things differently as well.”

The Falcons are 8-1 overall and finished second in District 1 to top-ranked MMCRU with a 5-1 mark. The Generals 5-4 overall and finished third in the district.

In the first meeting, senior Blake Wiggins threw for 247 yards and ran for 54 more for the Falcons. Junior Braylon Lopez had 116 receiving yards and 59 rushing yards. Junior Gavin Gerritson had 99 receiving yards.

Junior Eli Mora had 14 tackles for the Falcons in the first meeting, including a sack.

For Sibley-Ocheyedan, junior quarterback Hunter Kauffman had a huge game the first time around with 227 yards rushing and 101 passing.

“In the first game, we did get pressure on him, but when we did, he just pulled it down and ran,” Schwiesow said. “That’s how they got most of their offense. And they got about 80 yards of it on a broken play where he fumbled it and our guys kind of paused and he picked it up and took off. We need to get pressure, but we need to stay in our lanes so the linebackers can be there to clean up the mess.”

Lopez has developed into a key figure in all three phases for West Sioux. He has 1,011 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns. He has 487 receiving yards and four TDs through the air. On special teams, he has returned four kickoffs and three of those four have ended in the end zone. He has blocked a punt. Defensively, he has 20.5 tackles, four passes broken up and an interception.

Wiggins has completed 63 percent of his passes for 1,439 yards and 20 TDs with seven interceptions. He has rushed for 495 yards and 12 scores. Gerritson has 27

catches for 390 yards and four TDs.

Mora leads the West Sioux defense with 58.5 tackles. He has eight tackles for loss, including five sacks. Senior Hunter Doyle has 34 tackles, 14 for loss, with six sacks. Gerritson has three fumble recoveries and Doyle has two. Sophomore Kendrick Van Beek and freshman Kasen Lopez each have two interceptions.

For Sibley-Ocheyedan, Kauffman has completed 45 percent of his passes for 1,204 yards and 14 TDs with eight interceptions. He has rushed for 1,029 yards and 10 scores.

“Sibley-Ocheyedan has a lot of size. They are big up front,” Schwiesow said. “Their quarterback is phenomenal. He has the third most pass attempts in the state, which is crazy because most of the time you think of him as a runner. They throw the ball more than you think.”

Senior Dominic Marco has provided a nice boost in the run game for the Generals since returning from injury, churning out 501 yards and five TDs. Senior Dawson Kreykes has caught 33 passes for 481 yards and eight TDs. Senior Tanner Gries has 17 catches for 274 yards and three TDs.

Senior Kyler Elser leads the Generals with 55.5 tackles. He has 9.5 tackles for loss including five sacks. Elser has scored a pair of defensive TDs, including one on an interception return in the first game against West Sioux. Gries has 4.5 sacks and senior Aiden Beyer has 3.5. Sophomore Tristen Wingate has 43 tackles. Senior Gavin Stanton has four fumble recoveries and Elser has two. Wingate has six interceptions, Kreykes has three and sophomore Levi Sayler has two.

“They are all over the place in what they do on defense. Sometimes it’s a five-front, sometimes it’s four and sometimes it’s three,” Schwiesow said. “Last week against Newman they were almost exclusively in a 5-2. The first time we saw them they started in a five but then switched to a three because that is where they had the most success defending the pass.”

He said it is a combination of coaches and players that have to execute in that situation.

“We have to recognize what they are in and understand what to do against it,” Schwiesow said. “The kids have to adjust to what it is. It’s good for us that we’ve pretty much seen the full gamut of defensive looks over the past few years. We should be able to adjust.”

The coach said turnovers will be a key factor Friday.

“We have to take care of the foot-



West Sioux junior Braylon Lopez skirts a tackle against IKM-Manning in the opening round of the Class A state playoffs on Friday night in Hawarden. The Falcons defeated the Wolves 45-27. Photo by Josh Harrell

ball and not make mistakes. We need to play our game,” he said. “Last time we got a little sloppy in the middle of the game and let them get back in it. We need to continue to win in special teams. Usually though one of the key things in determining if you win or lose is making sure you win the turnover battle.”

The winner of Friday’s game will face third-ranked ACGC or Mount Ayr in the quarterfinals for the right to advance to the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls. ACGC, based in Guthrie Center, is 9-0. Mount Ayr is 6-3.

Falcons’ offense ignites

Fifth-ranked West Sioux did not have the ball long in its first-round playoff matchup with IKM-Manning, but it did not need to as explosive plays led to a 45-27 Falcon victory in Hawarden.

IKM-Manning had a nine-minute advantage in time of possession and led in total yards 466-421. West Sioux’s first three scoring drives lasted a combined total of 2 minutes and 37 seconds and resulted in a 21-0 lead. The Falcons never trailed in the contest.

After years of calling an offense that was a bit of an air raid attack himself, Schwiesow saw his team dominate on the ground. The Falcons outrushed the Wolves 350-49. Lopez ran for 280 yards and three TDs.

“Braylon is a dude,” Schwiesow said. “We saw some stuff on film where we were going to run those plays if we saw a certain formation. The kids executed. They did a good job. Our first few drives were a bunch of chunk plays. Braylon is just so darn fast we got it to him in space, and he just took off.”

Wolves quarterback Ben Ramsey, who completed 30-of-50 passes for 417 yards and three TDs with no interceptions.

“They have a very good quarterback. He’d only been sacked three times all year and there is a reason for that,” Schwiesow said. “It’s hard to bring him down. He’s a good

athlete. It felt like we were spending a lot of time chasing after him. We’d think we’d have him, and he’d break out of it and it felt like we had to cover guys for 12 seconds.”

West Sioux did manage two sacks of Ramsey in the contest.

The Falcons were all or nothing early in the game. In their first five drives, three went for TDs and two produced negative yardage.

Lopez capped a four-play, 78-yard drive with a 5-yard TD. Big plays on the drive were a 20-yard tote by Lopez and a 32-yard run by Wiggins with a personal foul penalty tacked on to the end of it. Jonathon Flores, who made all his kicks on the night, booted the point-after try to make it 7-0.

The third Falcon drive went 55 yards in four plays, capped by a 7-yard scoring run by Wiggins. The biggest play on that drive as a 44-yard pass from Wiggins to Lopez.

The fifth drive was a two-play, 78-yard drive. Lopez scored on a 74-yard run and after the kick, it was 21-0 with 9:42 left in the half.

“We ran the ball well. Our offensive line came to play,” Schwiesow said. “We hadn’t run the ball very well in our last couple of games and we worked hard on that all week in practice. Our linemen had good angles and did a good job on kick-out blocks. When their defense widened out, we were able to run inside which is something we hadn’t been able to do.”

IKM-Manning saw a promising first drive end on downs. The Wolves did nothing on their next three drives. IKM-Manning finally got on the board with 8:11 left in the half as an 11-play drive that went 47 yards ended with a 1-yard run by Davis Rasmussen, who also kicked the point after.

“Our defense did a good job in the first half,” Schwiesow said. “We were pretty stout up front.”

The Falcons scored on an 8-yard pass from Wiggins to Dilan Cervantes with 2:11 left in the half and the Falcons led 28-7. That ended a seven-play, 64-yard drive that

took just over three minutes off the clock.

Each team scored once in the third quarter. West Sioux’s tally came on a 1-yard run by Wiggins that made it 35-14. It ended a seven-play, 59-yard drive that again happened quickly, taking just over two minutes.

Flores made a 31-yard field goal to open the scoring in what was a bit of a wild fourth quarter. The kick completed the longest drive of the game for West Sioux in terms of time of possession. The Falcons went 46 yards in eight plays, taking 4 minutes and 12 seconds off the clock.

“Jonathon is such a weapon on field goals and kickoffs. He can do things with the ball off his foot better than anyone I’ve ever seen,” Schwiesow said. “It’s like a circus act. I can tell you it’s really nice that the other team generally is starting at its own 20 and we usually start around our own 40.”

Ramsey made things interesting, hitting Wyatt Danner with a 36-yard scoring pass and then after a quick three-and-out by the Falcons, converting a 63-yard TD pass to Rasmussen that cut the lead to 38-27 with 7:25 left in the game.

West Sioux had the answer, going 59 yards on eight plays before Lopez scored on a 7-yard run and Flores made the kick to cap the scoring.

“Our line did a tremendous job all night and Braylon did the rest,” Schwiesow said. “We decided that they have so many athletes and they are so good in man coverage that we had to be able to run the ball, and we did.”

IKM-Manning finished at 6-3.

“This team scared me,” Schwiesow said. “They have a lot of athletes. Where we had the advantage is we were better up front.”

Lopez added two receptions for 49 yards to his rushing totals. Wiggins rushed for 70 yards.

Mora had 11 tackles and a sack for West Sioux. Gerritson had 10 stops.

Cross country ends season at state-qualifying meet in Emmetsburg

Dekkers paces boys with 18th-place finish at event

BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND  
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West Sioux concluded its cross country season at the Class 1A state-qualifying meet in Emmetsburg last Thursday.

In Class 1A, the top two teams and top 10 individuals all advance to the state meet. The Falcons finished eighth in the boys team standings out of 12 squads with a score of

205. They were 23 points behind sixth-place Trinity Christian and five in front of ninth-place Lawton-Bronson.

“I was pleased with the effort,” said West Sioux coach Jon Selchert. “All the runners ran personal best or close to it.”

East Sac County won with a team score of 33 and Sioux Central finished second with 42 points, the two teams that advanced to state on the boys side. Sioux Central was 78 points in front of third-place South O’Brien.

Individually, Troy Dekkers paced the Falcons and finished 18th in the field of 86 com-

petitors.

“This is one of the best races Troy has run,” Selchert said. “He has been very consistent for the last month.”

Owen Hansen had the next-best finish for West Sioux at 38th.

“We have done an excellent job of pushing through and finding a competitive pace,” Selchert said.

West Sioux did not have any girls run at the meet.

Selchert added that he liked how his squad improved over the course of the season.

“This was a fun group, and I hope this year can be a building block to get more runners into the sport,” he said.

Class 1A state-qualifying meet

**Girls team scores:** 1. Sioux Central 38; 2. Sibley-Ocheyedan 50; 3. Hinton 81; 4. Emmetsburg 99; 5. Siouxland Christian 118; 6. Lawton-Bronson 126.

**Boys team scores:** 1. East Sac County 33; 2. Sioux Central 42; 3. South O’Brien 120; 4. Siouxland Christian 139; 5. Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn 147; 6. Emmetsburg 155; 7. Trinity Christian 182; 8. West Sioux 205; 9. Lawton-Bronson 210; 10. North Union 11. MMCURU 257; 12. Harris-Lake Park 285.

**West Sioux results:** 18. Troy Dekkers 19:08; 38. Owen Hansen 20:54; 56. Anthony Hansen 22:14; 60. Zachary Sabin 22:20; 61. Ian DeBoom 22:32.

A big thank you

to those who came to my open house  
~ 90th Birthday in Alcester on Oct. 11, and also to  
those who sent beautiful cards.

A special thanks to my children for everything  
they did to make my 90th Birthday a memorable  
one. It was very much appreciated and will be long  
remembered.

Thanks Again and May God Bless You All!

Joan Osterkamp

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday



to Dorothy Van Wyhe

Birthday wishes can be sent to

Dorothy Van Wyhe  
4569 Dove Ave.,  
Ireton, IA 51027

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