

# A disputed finish

Great game decided on official's call, and Lions see victory taken away



A fan shows support for No. 17 – Sam O'Neil

By Kevin Warnock  
Matchup

It remains to be seen if KTVB Channel 7 sports reporter Jay Tust will ever become as famous as JFK assassination cameraman Abraham Zapruder.

But the footage Tust shot (no pun intended) from the 2012 Borah-Capital finish Friday night kept this controversy going for as long as anyone cared to discuss it.

Tust was just a few feet away from the play that decided Capital's 35-34 SIC victory at Dona Larsen Park – another tantalizing finish to this 50 year-old rivalry.

"It was a great game," said Borah coach Darren Corpus. "It was what used to be a typical Borah-Capital game. We were disappointed, but the kids came back the next day and were fired up and ready to roll."

Adding to the confusion was the game's public address announcer, who also called it 36-35 Borah. He felt it was a completion and Tust's video seemed to support it.

The memorable moment started like this:

The Lions, trailing 35-28 with just under a minute and a half to play, went 74 yards on just five pass plays, through a tired Capital defense, to score on an 11-yard pass from Cole



Hunter Kenyon rambles downfield as teammate Kion Williams watches nearby.

Skinner to Trey Dennis.

That cut the margin to just one point. Corpus, sensing the momentum change entirely on his team's side, elected to leave his offense on the field and lined up for a two-point conversion.

Skinner dropped back, wasn't really pressured and

waited for someone to come open. When he stepped up in the pocket as if to run, he spotted Montana Bilger and calmly tossed it to him in the end zone for two points.

The elation of the Borah sideline and dejection of the

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## BORAH FOOTBALL: Capital 35, Lions 34



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Capital defense dominated the stadium's atmosphere, but quickly changed when the back judge ran into the action and signaled incomplete.

What the fans hadn't noticed was that Capital defensive back Jacob Miller had stripped the ball and sent it bouncing on the turf.

"I was proud of our young man (Miller) for fighting to rip the ball out through the whistle," said Simis. "It was a very tough call."

The two-point play was then disallowed.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, what of moving pictures? In particular, those shown of the play from Tust's camera? On the news that night, it showed Bilger's catch and his falling backward with possession in the end zone. In Idaho high-school football, though, there was no instant-replay rule.

"We've got pictures. We know that was a catch," said Corpus afterward. "But you don't want to put yourself in a situation where you have to have a referee make a call."

The back judge was likely screened or eclipsed by players and, by the time he got to the

spot, he called what he saw. The decision kept Capital in the race for the SIC title. It also put the finishing touch on the ninth-straight season where the Eagles swept their Boise School District opponents.

The loss also didn't hurt Borah much.

"In reality, it might have been the best thing to happen," Corpus said. "It helped us prepare better for Rocky the next week."

Never more than a touchdown separated these foes. Borah took the opening kick and easily moved 84 yards for the score, behind the Cole Skinner-to-Justin Coburn connection and the unstoppable running of Hunter Kenyon.

Skinner threw for 324 yards and Kenyon rushed for 172 as Borah had 516 yards, compared to Capital's 338. The Eagles, however, had a 79-yard kickoff return by Tarik Littlejohn and intercepted two of Skinner's passes.

In the fourth quarter, neither defense could stop the other until Miller's play, and that took some good fortune to happen.

### GAME SUMMARY

Capital	7	7	7	14	-	35
Borah	7	0	14	13	-	34

**B** – Hunter Kenyon 13 pass from Cole Skinner (Sean Fry kick)

**C** – Tarik Littlejohn 79 kickoff return (Conner Poulson kick)

**C** – Makena Simis 2 run (Poulson kick)

**B** – Justin Coburn 20 pass from Skinner (Fry kick)

**B** – Kenyon 2 run (Fry kick)

**C** – Ian Kinkaid 3 pass from Simis (Poulson kick)

**B** – Kenyon 4 run (Fry kick)

**C** – Simis 4 run (Poulson kick)

**C** – Littlejohn 36 pass from Simis (Poulson kick)

**B** – Trey Dennis 11 pass from Skinner (pass failed)

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING:** Capital – T.J. Clarke 23-65, Simis 16-38, Marcel King Jr. 3-0. Borah – Kenyon 28-172, Skinner 6-20.

**PASSING:** Capital - Simis 18-24-0-235 yards. Borah – Skinner 20-33-2-324 yards.

**RECEIVING:** Capital – King Jr. 7-121, Littlejohn 4-64, Kinkaid 2-31, Dylan Hale 2-13, Clarke 3-6. Borah – Coburn 8-145, Kion Williams 8-125, Montana Bilger 1-22, Kenyon 1-13, Dennis 1-11, Kadeem Torgeson 1-8.

**TOP LEFT:** Carlton Strough prepares to tackle Capital's T.J. Clarke. **TOP RIGHT:** Colter Mann. **LOWER LEFT:** Montana Bilger has the ball and goes to his knees in the end zone. **LOWER MIDDLE:** The referee comes in to make the call on the game's biggest play.