

Lions finish SIC play on top

Borah goes into playoffs as a No. 1 seed after win over Rocky Mountain

By Rachel Roberts
Idaho Statesman

It's been a long time since the Borah High football team had a season quite like this.

The Lions wrapped up the 5A SIC's No. 1 seed in the state playoffs with a 27-17 victory over Rocky Mountain on Friday night at Brighton Stadium.

Not since 1995 have the Lions had more victories in a season. Borah went 9-2 that year with a state semifinal appearance. These Lions hope to do them one better.

"The desire by these players has been incredible," Borah coach Darren Corpus said. "What a great group of athletes. What a great group of players and a great group of coaches. We've had great support all year long. I am so happy for these guys."

Borah (7-2) earned the right to play host to Highland next week in the state quarterfinals, while Eagle) grabbed the No. 2 seed, Capital No. 3 and Rocky Mountain No. 4.

"In this day and age, this is pretty special," Corpus said. "These football teams are just terrific around here."

Borah played inspired from the kickoff, running behind the strength of senior back Hunter Kenyon. The 5-foot-9, 199-pounder gained 64 yards on the ground in five plays, finishing off Borah's first possession with a 1-yard TD run.

Senior kicker Jacob Szuch added a 25-yard field goal with 3:26 left in the second quarter to put the Lions up 10-0.

Kenyon left the game near the end of the first quarter with a sprained ankle and returned for a few more carries in the second quarter before sitting out the rest of the game. Corpus hoped Kenyon — who finished with 15 carries for 108 yards — would be available next week.

With Kenyon out, the Lions turned to senior Clint Langston, junior Karsten Niederer and



TOP: Justin Coburn watches the ball and makes one of his five catches on the night.

RIGHT: Kion Williams leaps high to take the ball from a Rocky defender.



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- Coach Darren

sophomore Eric Thrift to carry the load the rest of the way. Niederer racked up 135 yards and Thrift contributed a 5-yard touchdown run at the end of the second quarter — his first TD of the season.

Junior quarterback Cole Skinner kept the Lions' offense humming, completing 12-of-21 passes for 230 yards and a touchdown as Borah led the

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BORAH FOOTBALL: Lions 27, Rocky Mountain 17



TOP LEFT: Kion Williams has a step on a Rocky defender and makes a big catch.

TOP RIGHT: Cole Skinner scrambles for yardage.

MIDDLE: Karsten Niederer takes advantage of playing time and runs for big gain.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Skinner runs away from a Rocky player.



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Grizzlies from start to finish.

“We have some depth. We don’t always rely on one person to do the job,” Skinner said. “We have people backing (Kenyon) up that can do just as well.”

Borah led 17-0 at halftime, but Rocky rallied behind the running of Dakota Weindel (123 yards) and Riley Bradshaw (69 yards). Bradshaw got the Grizzlies on the scoreboard with a 32-yard touchdown run and Garrett Berg nailed a 32-yard field goal to cut the margin.

Borah, however, put together a pair of long scoring drives to put the game away. The Lions finished with just under 500 yards total offense, the most Rocky’s defense (the SIC’s best) gave up all year.

Corpus said the team’s loss to Capital last week seemed to help.

“In reality, it was the best thing to happen for us,” he said. “The kids worked hard all week and came out ready to play. This felt like a championship game. Our fans were just as loud, if not louder than Rocky’s. It was awesome.”

GAME SUMMARY

Borah	10	7	0	10	-	27
Rocky Mountain	0	0	10	7	-	17

- B – Hunter Kenyon 1 run (Jacob Szuch kick)
- B – FG Szuch 25
- B – Eric Thrift 6 run (Szuch kick)
- RM – Riley Bradshaw 32 run (Garrett Berg kick)
- RM – FG Berg 37
- B – Kion Williams 20 pass from Cole Skinner (Szuch kick)
- B – FG Szuch 19
- RM – Bradshaw 4 run (Berg kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Borah – Karsten Niederer 19-135, Kenyon 15-108, Thrift 5-18. Rocky – Dakota Weindel 19-123, Bradshaw 9-69.

PASSING: Borah – Skinner 12-21-1-230 yards. Rocky – Bradshaw 9-22-0-112 yards.

RECEIVING: Borah – Justin Coburn 5-78, Williams 3-81, Trey Dennis 3-31, Kenyon 1-39. Rocky – Carrigan Owen 3-7, Weindel 2-29, Landry Batis 2-25, Chance Hamilton 1-44.