

Greg Kreller/IPT Team Treasure Valley running back Matt Kaiserman of Skyview leaps for the first down marker over Team Idaho defender Brandon Hanna of Lake City in the second half of the Saturday afternoon Idaho All-State football game at Eagle High School. Team Treasure Valley won the game 17-13. Saturday, July 7, 2007

Treasure Valley takes bragging rights

Posted: Sunday, July 8, 2007 4:06 AM EDT



Football: Locals down Team Idaho 17-13, now 3-0 in All-State game

By Mike Sharp

sports@idahopress.com EAGLE — When the standouts from high school football teams across the state gathered on Eagle High School's turf on Saturday, they were pinned together by the qualifications, and team names — Treasure Valley vs. Team Idaho.

In the end, it was Treasure Valley that earned the bragging rights, downing their foes 17-13.

"All all star games are going to be defensive ones," said Treasure Valley coach Dave Young, also Skyview's head coach. "We only had four days to practice. I know Idaho doubled up their practices. That shows. You get better timing. It's tough for an offense to run well together after four practices. Most of our plays were a tick or a step away. That's what happens." Treasure Valley scored the only points in the first quarter, with Eagle's Tony Maxwell kicking a 39-yard field goal to give Treasure Valley a 3-0 lead with 2 minutes, 48 seconds left in the first quarter.

It didn't take long into the second quarter for Treasure Valley to add some distance between itself and Team Idaho, when Capital's Jarrell Root blocked a Team Idaho punt, and Boise's Jake Harley picked it up and took it to the end zone. With the point after, Treasure Valley led 10-0 with 11:02 left in the second quarter.

It only took two minutes after that score for Team Idaho to narrow the margin, when Genesee's Justin Udy scored the team's first points on a quarterback sneak. The score stayed at 10-7 at the half. But with a low scoring half, came a highly volatile atmosphere on the field.

"Everybody out there was pretty competitive," Treasure Valley's Matt Kaiserman said. "It started to get really heated out there in that first half. Everybody was going hard.

"It was a mixture of both hard hits and talk. You get these guys who are competitive and they fly around and knock each other's heads off. Getting angry can happen quick."

Neither team scored in the third quarter, but early in the fourth Marshal Pirtz picked up a fumble for Treasure Valley. A penalty came soon after, but the team still held a first-and-goal at the 15.

Treasure Valley quarterback Matt Ballenger, from Skyview, took the snap and while turning to escape the Team Idaho

defensive line, his knee came dangerously close to touching the turf. He regained his balance, escaped the threat, and got the pass off to Tyler Shoemaker. Shoemaker did his own Houdini act, throwing off three tacklers to get to the end zone for Treasure Valley's first offensive touchdown of the game.

"It was pretty cool," Ballenger said of the touchdown. "You have to get used to the speed of these different guys. That takes time. But it worked out. It was pretty cool."

The score and subsequent point after put Treasure Valley up 17-7, and Team Idaho was able to add one more touchdown with only 3:16 left, with Root blocking the extra point, but it couldn't capitalize on the time left.

"I'm very proud of these guys," Young said. "They were very great through this. It was a treat to watch some of these guys, and to have them all together. Really, in this one the offense was trying not to lose, but have fun. We wanted to spread the ball around. The guys bought into that 100 percent. We were able to eat clock and win it."

"At the high school level you're going to get zero, or three or four of these guys on a single team. But we have them all together. With these guys I got no negative attitudes. They just rolled together."

Note: Pirtz, heading to Washington State for football, was named the game's Defensive MVP, while Skyline running back Ben Laporta, from Team Idaho, was given the Offensive MVP.