

Idaho defense shuts down Treasure Valley

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In typical fashion, Saturday's all-state football game between the teams dubbed Treasure Valley and Idaho was a defensively dominated affair, save for a handful of plays by Idaho, which took advantage of turnovers and big plays to win 22-0 at Holt Arena.

"Hats off to these kids who all come here from different schools and learned to trust each other over a few days," said Idaho head coach Tim Perrgot, Minico's football coach.

Perrgot said defenses tend to dominate all-star games in football because it takes far more time to coordinate the execution a good offense requires.

He had a couple of simple reasons his team came out on top Saturday.

"Our defense kept us in it," he said. "We also had a little more depth than they did. I think we just wore them down."

That was apparent. As the minutes ticked off in the second half, Treasure Valley seemed to move slower while Idaho frequently played with the same high energy both teams displayed in the first quarter.

In fact, it was in the first quarter that Treasure Valley's offensive line seemed to have a little more push, creating room. But that didn't last long.

During the first possession of the game, Idaho was able to move the ball to Treasure Valley's 42-yard line, opting to attempt a field goal on fourth down. Minico kicker Coltin Johnson missed.

Treasure Valley quarterback Steven Laurino of Boise High threw an interception during his team's first possession, but Idaho quarterback Justin Podrabsky, of Lewiston High, returned the favor on the first play.

Idaho was three and out on its next possession and did little more as the game rolled into the second quarter.

But Treasure Valley failed to take advantage of good field position — which it didn't have often because of the superb punting from Johnson. It wasn't long before Idaho's defensive line starting winning the battles up front.

As the second quarter wound down, Treasure Valley let loose. On first down, from his own 25, Laurino threw a perfect spiral that was on target to hit Cory Holm of Emmett High on Idaho's 20-yard line.

But Century's Rhys Borchert made sure Holm never got his hand on it. Borchert nearly came up with an interception.

It was just off my finger tips," he said.

Borchert had been anticipating the pass.

"I kept retreating because I figured they were going to try something deep sooner or later," Borchert said.

Two plays later, Treasure Valley was punting and that's when Idaho's offensive line started making an impact.

When Idaho got the ball with 1:02 left in the second quarter, Perrgot decided to let his quarterback air it out.

The first play was a 30-yard pass to Cade Mendoza that put Idaho at Treasure Valley's 27. The next play, Podrabsky hit Cade in the end zone for the touchdown.

"They had one high safety who went to the other side and our slot receiver made a great play on the ball," said Podrabsky, who signed with the University of Idaho.

Leading 7-0, Idaho got the ball back with just 22 seconds when Highland's Paul Baker intercepted Laurino at Treasure Valley's 45-yard line and ran it back to the 17.

After an 18-yard pass from Podrabsky to Gus Cullen, of Jerome, it was Blackfoot's Anthony Clarke who carried the ball into the end zone from five yards out.

Running to his left, Clarke took up every bit of turf before reaching into the end zone with the football.

"I was just watching my lead tailback," Clarke said. "Once I saw him make his move, I read him and took off."

Clarke, who made Boise State's squad as a walk-on, was working out with the team during the Fifth and Sixth district all-star game. He was happy to have made the all-state game.

“This was a lot of fun,” he said. “I made a lot of good relationships with these guys.”

Idaho completed a two-point conversion and took a 15-0 lead into half time.

Although Idaho scored just once in the second half, it thoroughly dominated Treasure Valley, especially after Laurino left with an injury in the third quarter.

Treasure Valley mounted only one serious threat in the third quarter, but with fourth down and a yard to go at Idaho's 12, it went for the first down and failed.

Idaho touchdown with 8:38 left in the fourth quarter came after Treasure Valley fumbled the ball at its own 17-yard line. Idaho's Logan Chidister, of Blackfoot, recovered the fumble.

Two plays later, it was running back Jayson Washington, of Moscow, chugging all 17 yards for the score. Johnson split the uprights for the extra point.

It was the first year in the event's six-year history that Idaho beat Treasure Valley.

Washington was named offensive player of the game and Treasure Valley defensive end Tyler Horn, of Mountain View, who is headed to Boise State, was named defensive player of the game.