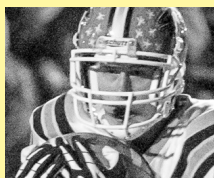


# SPORTS

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



### CHECK THIS OUT TOMORROW

More on Frankfort's preparations for the state championship game against Bridgeport.

# Flying to Wheeling!

## Frankfort smashes Westside, 49-16, to punch title game ticket

By Michael Minnich  
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**SHORT GAP**—With the sun setting on a chilly Saturday afternoon, Kevin Whiteman took a knee, overcome by emotion.

The dream of everyone who's strapped on pads or wore a whistle had come true for the Frankfort coach and his Falcons: the dream of playing for a state championship.

But leave it to Gage Shaffer to break the tension.

The senior quarterback trotted over, wrapped his 6-foot-7 frame around his coach, and, after a long embrace, Whiteman was ready to try to put words to his emotions.

"It feels great. I'm very happy. I've been waiting for this for a long time...basically since I've been in high school, I've wanted to do this. But it means more as a coach. And I'm so happy and so proud. The kids did a great job. I can't describe how I feel."

An emotional win, sure, but not a dramatic one: Frankfort scored 39 points in the first half, 27 in the second quarter alone, and played the Westside Renegades off of the field in the biggest game ever in Short Gap, 49-16.

Playing in their final home games, win or lose, Brady Watson ran for 143 yards scored five touchdowns with his feet and Shaffer, committed to Maryland for his quarterbacking skills, did his best work on the defensive end, intercepting two passes to go with 194 passing yards.

"Brady is always huge. He's always going to give you all he has, and he did a wonderful job," said Whiteman.

For Westside, Justin Cogar was a one-man band, either running or passing the ball on all but two offensive plays.

But despite his best efforts, the Renegades didn't get going on offense until the game was well over, and Frankfort intercepted the senior three times.

"We did a nice job [on him]," said Whiteman. "We knew he was a good football player, but nobody gave us a chance to stop him. People downstate didn't give us a

chance to stop him, and I was really proud."

Frankfort advances for the first time to the state title game (Ridgeley won it in 1975, before consolidation) and will face defending champion Bridgeport, who mauled Wayne, 48-7, in Saturday's other AA semifinal.

The championship game is at Wheeling Island Stadium on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

The two schools finished in a tie in the final playoff rankings, but the Indians earned the 1-seed on tiebreakers.

The Falcons also extend the school record for wins, now 13-0 on the season.

"I'm just proud. Our school has never been there, and I'm very humbled and proud to be the first coach to take them there."

"My assistant coaches have done a wonderful job all year, and they deserve credit. I'm titled as the head coach, but without them, I'm nothing."

Defenses dominated early: Frankfort went three-and-out, then Westside, after getting a 12-yard strike from Justin Cogar to Bryce Robinson on their second play from scrimmage, turned the ball over on downs when Cogar slipped on fourth-and-1 for a loss of five.

"I think our kids came out defensively and really played hard," said Whiteman. "Their receivers were looking when they came across the middle after we popped them a few times."

The Falcons again punted after gaining just one yard.

But on third-and-10, their defense made a big play: Gage Shaffer intercepted Cogar and returned the ball to the Westside 11.

"That interception was huge, man. I don't know how he caught it," said Whiteman. "That definitely helped us get some momentum going."

Two plays later, Brady Watson cashed in the pigskin from nine yards out: Frankfort led, 6-0, with 7:23 left in the first quarter after the extra point was no good.

After a Westside three-and-out, the Falcons started from their own 35.

On third-and-9, Shaffer connected with Jacob



(above) Brady Watson flew through the Westside defense all day, scoring five touchdowns; (below) Gage Shaffer gets some verbal encouragement from the Frankfort sideline and stands on a run. TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LEE BROWN (KNOBLEY.COM)



SEE FALCONS, A9





(right) Noah Bible takes off for a long touchdown run; (above) Brady Watson, Trent Lloyd, and the Frankfort defense effectively bottled up Westside star Justin Cogar all afternoon. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LEE BROWN (KNOBLEY.COM)

FALCONS

From Page A7

Kessel for a gain of 47 yards to the Westside 17. Three Brady Watson carries later, and FHS was in the end zone again: despite a failed two-point run, the Falcons led, 12-0, with 2:31 left in the first quarter. Westside moved the ball across midfield on a 22-yard strike from Cogar to Robinson, but Kessel sacked Cogar for a loss of 10 on second down and the Renegades punted. The Falcons went to work again: Shaffer connected with Gavin Mauzy for a 20-yard gain on the second play of the second quarter, then Watson ripped off 14 on third-and-1. The offensive line kept creating holes: Noah Bible

for nine, Shaffer for eight, then Bible for a 22-yard touchdown. The extra point was no good: Frankfort 18, Westside 0. Cogar completed three of his next five passes to again move the ball across midfield, but Shaffer grabbed his second interception and returned the ball to the Renegades 40. Shaffer went long—39 yards to Kessel—then short himself, scoring from one yard out. Bible's run was no good, keeping the lead at 24-0 with 6:24 to go in the half. The next three drives ended in punts. Frankfort, in formation to make it four, instead ran a fake punt option, with Bible pitching to Shaffer in a reversal of roles for a gain of 13. Watson went 40 yards on the next play: 31-0 after

Nick Howser's kick. After a Westside three-and-out, the Falcons started at their own 44. Watson ran for four, Alex Finzel for 12 and 7, then Shaffer and Mauzy connected for 20 yards to the Westside 13. With time running short, the Falcons threw on their next three plays to gain eight yards, then Watson finished for his fourth score from five yards out. Shaffer passed to Bible for the two-point conversion, and Frankfort led 39-0 with nine seconds left in the half. "We played really good in the first half," said Whiteman, in an understatement. "I said, teams can come back if you let up. Keep playing hard. Don't let up. I definitely was afraid, even though we were up 39-0." Westside used their



passing game to pick up a pair of first downs before punting on their first possession of the second half. Frankfort, though, gave it right back to them: Watson fumbled after gaining 20 yards across midfield. Cogar connected with Justin Kenneda for 22 yards, ran for 16, then found Kenneda again in third down for 14 yards to the Frankfort 4. Cogar kept for the 4-yard score, then passed for two: 39-8 with 8:15 left in the third quarter. After a Frankfort punt, the Renegades moved into the Falcons' territory again, but Alex Finzel in-

tercepted Cogar's pass at the Frankfort 15. Clock-chewing ensued: Frankfort ran 14 plays, with Watson and Bible rushing for first downs and Shaffer connecting with Finzel for a 34-yard gain on fourth down, to move to the shadow of the goal line. Why mess with success: Watson, for the fifth time, found the end zone, and Howser added the kick: 46-8. Westside fumbled the kickoff at their own 13, and Howser nailed a 27-yard field goal with 4:35 left after the rushing game could not advance the ball.

Westside snared a consolation TD on a 6-yard pass from Cogar to Kenneda with 1:29 left. "The second half was iffy," said Whiteman. "But we're going to the championship game. A lot of people counted us out, and that's why I'm so happy. People said 'Frankfort this' and 'Frankfort that', but we're going and they can't take that away from us now." "We've got a lot to do. We've got to prepare for a very, very good football team. We're definitely going to have to add some wrinkles and do some different things."

NFL

Janay Rice tells 'Today' show: Goodell not honest

The Associated Press

Janay Rice says NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell wasn't being honest when he said Ray Rice was "ambiguous" about hitting her in a casino elevator. "I know for a fact ... that Ray told the honest truth that he's been telling from February," Janay Rice told NBC's "Today" show in an interview that will be broadcast Monday. A second segment will be shown Tuesday. As for Goodell, she said: "I can't say he's telling the truth." An arbitrator Friday threw out Ray Rice's indefinite suspension, making the former Baltimore Ravens running back a free agent. Former U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones called Goodell's decision in September to change Rice's original suspension from two games to indefinite "arbitrary" and an "abuse of discretion." The Rices met with Goodell in June. He then issued a two-game suspension but

increased it to indefinite after an in-elevator video of Rice striking his then-fiancee in February was made public. The Ravens released Rice that day. "I think they did what they had to do for themselves," Janay Rice said, referring to the NFL. Goodell started Rice's appeal hearing on Nov. 5 with more than two hours of testimony. Ray and Janay Rice testified the following day. Jones wrote: "Because Rice did not mislead the commissioner and because there were no new facts on which the commissioner could base his increased suspension, I find that the imposition of the indefinite suspension was arbitrary. I therefore vacate the second penalty imposed on Rice." In her interview with "Today" host Matt Lauer, Janay Rice said she was furious with Ray but never considered leaving him. "Of course, in the back of my mind and in my heart I knew that our relationship

wouldn't be over because I know that this isn't us, and it's not him," she said. Rice, a three-time Pro Bowl player during six seasons with the Ravens, hopes to return to the NFL. It's uncertain whether a team will sign him this late in the season. Rice, who turns 28 in January, had his worst season as a pro in 2013. He averaged a career-low 3.1 yards per carry and ran for 660 yards, ending a string of four consecutive seasons over 1,000 yards. In discussing her husband's chances of landing with a team, Janay Rice said "it's going to take some work." "For them to look past this situation, which I know is going to be hard," she added. "But at the end of the day he's a football player and that's what they should be really focused on because he's proven himself as a football player for seven years. There's never been a question on what he can do on the field."

REDSKINS

From Page A8

pass from McCoy, Luck answered with a 73-yard touchdown pass to Coby Fleener to make it 42-24

with 4:45 left in the third. Luck sealed it with a 79-yard scoring play to Moncrief early in the fourth. Moncrief had three catches for 134 yards, while Fleener finished

with four catches for 127 yards and two scores. Jordan Reed had nine catches for 123 yards, and Jackson finished with five catches for 84 yards before leaving late with a bruised right leg.

RAVENS

From Page A8

Ravens' lone punt occurred with 23 seconds to go in the period. The Chargers converted all seven third-down tries in the first half, but Baltimore took advantage of two turnovers and scored on all four of its possessions for a 16-10 lead. After Smith made a sprawling catch of a 13-yard touchdown pass from Flacco to complete the game's opening drive, Rivers threw an interception on the Chargers' second play from scrimmage. Elvis Dumervil hit Rivers' arm as he threw, and Daryll Smith picked off the pass at the San Diego 19 to set up a field goal. It was the first time this season the Chargers allowed more than seven points in the first quarter. Rivers brought back San Diego, converting four third downs and firing a 12-yard touchdown pass to Allen, whose diving catch of the low throw survived a lengthy replay review. After Tucker made it 13-7, the Chargers moved deep into Baltimore territory before Royal lost a fumble at the 16. Tucker then ended a 73-yard march with his third field goal. Rivers responded with a beat-the-clock march that produced a 52-yarder by Nick Novak with :02 left in the half.

STEELERS

From Page A8

late in the first half. The Saints put together two long touchdown drives in the second quarter, the first ending with a 15-yard touchdown pass to Watson and the other with a 4-yard toss to the little-used Lorig to make it 14-6 at the half. New Orleans defensive end Cameron Jordan tipped a pass by Roethlisberger early in the third quarter and caught it for his first career interception to give the Saints the ball at the Pittsburgh 15. It took Brees two plays to hit Toon for an 11-yard score. The Steelers responded with a 13-play, 83-yard drive that ended with Bell sprinting around left end for his third score of the year. Pittsburgh's momentum lasted 2:31, or the time it took New Orleans to go 89 yards. Stills covered the last 69 all by himself, badly beating Pittsburgh cornerback Ike Taylor on a double move. He raced across the goal line to make it 28-16 and Brees completed his best day of the season with a 3-yard lob to Colston. NOTES: Steelers DE Brett Keisel left in the third quarter with a triceps injury and did not return. ... Graham was also held without a catch in a Week 7 loss to Detroit. ... Pittsburgh fell to 6-2 after its bye week under coach Mike Tomlin. ... The Saints host Carolina next Sunday while the Steelers travel to Cincinnati.

WVU

From Page A8

Shell turned a short rush up the middle into a 54-yard TD run, giving the Mountaineers a 7-0 lead just 2:10 into play. But Wimberly answered with a 3-yard TD run on Iowa State's first possession, and Richardson found Wimberly for a 5-yard TD pass to give the Cyclones a 14-7 lead. Iowa State pushed its advantage to 21-7 when Richardson found Tad Ecby along the sideline for a 29-yard touchdown. But Howard responded with TD passes of 29 and 4 yards to Mario Alford. Field goals of 46 and 32 yards by Lambert put West Virginia 27-21 at halftime. "We just talked about finishing, and we came out and did it. The first half we were a bit shaky — the first quarter, actually — but we came back," Howard said. Iowa State's offensive struggled in the second half ensured that that would be plenty for the Mountaineers — who allowed the Cyclones to post the biggest comeback in school history in a 52-44 triple-OT win in Morgantown last season. "It was about proving to ourselves that we were able to finish this year in the appropriate way," Holgorsen said. "We wanted to prove to ourselves that the last 11 months wasn't a waste of time."

About 80 bricks remain on the side of the concession stand near Alumni Field at Tornado Alley Stadium. This is a bank of engraved bricks memorializing Keyser High Schools Athletes, Cheerleaders, and Band Members past and present. You can still get a brick of your own or one to remember a special KHS Alum as permanent evidence of their devotion to the Keyser High Golden Tornado.

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