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Chiefland wins semi-regional game 47-6 over Dixie County



Hunter Barrand dodges a Dixie County tackler as his Chiefland teammates plow a path for the big runner. Barrand ran for big yardage on the play.

Story and Photos

By Terry Witt © Nov. 17, 2018 at 12:38 p.m.

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CHIEFLAND -- The Chiefland Indians beat the Dixie County Bears 47-6 on Friday (Nov. 16) for the right to advance to the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Regional Class 1A championship against Madison County on Nov. 23.



Jarret Jerrels (21) intercepts a pass for Chiefland and runs behind Ricky Jones (22) and other teammates for a touchdown.

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Chiefland receiver Amonte' Young catches a touchdown pass before a Dixie County defender can reach him.



Dixie County runner Fitzgerald Warren makes a sharp cut left as teammate Paras Cline goes the other way.

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Dixie quarterback Sam Cannon hands off to running back Derrick Charboneau for a big gain.



Bears running back Eli Bray (32) rockets into the Chiefland defensive line and is met head on by 275-pound Brandon Bowers (90). The lineman, who has unusual speed for his size, blocked the run for no gain.

The winner of the FHSAA Class 1A game between the Chiefland Indians and the Madison County Cowboys on Nov. 23, will play on Nov. 30 in the state semi-final at the

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Sailfish Splash Park Aquatic Center in Stuart (Martin County – East Coast) on Nov. 30.

After the state semi-final game on Nov. 30, the winner between those two teams will play at the same park in Stuart on Dec. 8, with kickoff for that game set to be at 7:30 p.m. for the FHSAA Class 1A State Championship Football Team Title.

As for the game on Nov. 16, the Chiefland Indian defense intercepted the ball three times, returning one for a touchdown, and kept Dixie County's Bear offense off balance with a mix of long passes, power runs up the middle and quick runs around the ends.

Dixie County ran into a stubborn and physically aggressive Chiefland defense that refused to give ground on Friday night on the C. Doyle McCall Football Field.

"The last thing I told them coming out of the locker room before the game – the most physical team wins," Chiefland Head Varsity Football Coach Adam Gore said.

Gore said Dixie County brought two, 1,000-yard rushers to Chiefland. He said he knew the Indians would have to get physical with both runners to beat the Bears.

On offense, Gore said the home team tried a lot of things in the first half but realized the most effective way to beat the Bears was to run straight at them. He said the Bears tried to do the same thing to Chiefland but failed.

The regional semi-final game took place on a windy, cold night. Fans on both sides of the stadium were bundled up in winter coats and stocking caps. Hot chocolate was a favorite drink at the concession stand.

Chiefland finished the regular season 9-1. The Indians are 1-0 in the playoffs. Dixie County was 8-4 in the regular season.

Dixie County took the opening drive of the game deep into Chiefland's territory before the Indians stuffed three consecutive runs. An attempted field goal by Dixie County missed its mark.

Chiefland drove from its own 20 to the 44 before fumbling on its first offense series, but Dixie County quickly gave away the ball when Chiefland's Sedrick Moultrie intercepted.

The Indians drove from their own 34 to score on a two-yard run by Jarrett Jerrels. The extra point failed.

Dixie County scored its only touchdown of the night when Derrick Sharboneau, one of four speedy runners for the Bears, accelerated around left end for a 14-yard score. The extra point failed.

Chiefland answered quickly. The Indians scored on their next drive when quarterback Ty Corbin threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to Amonte' Young. Young ran into end zone alone. The extra point failed. Chiefland led 12-6 with 8:48 left in the second quarter.

The Indians recovered a Dixie County fumble on the Bears' next series. The Indians drove from their own 37 to score on a short plunge by Jerrels. The extra point by Noah Nguyen was good. Chiefland led 19-6 with 5:45 left in the half.

In the third quarter, Chiefland drove from its own 40 to score on a nine-yard run by Payton Parnell who hurled himself over the goal line. Parnell was hit hard in mid-air by a Dixie County defender but Parnell managed to hang onto the ball. Nguyen's extra point was good. Chiefland led 26-7 with 7:36 left in the third quarter.

The Indian defense continued to exert enormous pressure on Dixie County's passing game. The pressure paid off when Jerrels intercepted a Dixie County pass and ran 60 yards for a touchdown with an escort of teammates leading the way. Nguyen kicked the extra point. Chiefland led 33-6 with 5:08 left in the third quarter.

The next Bear drive ended in two plays when Chiefland's Kirk Williams intercepted at

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the Dixie County 36-yard line. Chiefland drove to the end zone in three plays and scored on a 30-yard pass from Corbin to Young. The extra point by Nguyen was good, leaving the score 40-6 with 3:21 left in the third quarter.

The Bears were unable to gain much yardage when they got the ball back. When Chiefland's took over, speedster Kirk Williams scored on a 71-yard run around left end. Nguyen added the extra point to give Chiefland a 47-6 lead as the third quarter came to a close.

Chiefland quickly moved within scoring range on its final series when Hunter Barrand rumbled around left end for a 55-yard gain to the Dixie County 18.

The Indians were positioned to score on the Bears' 5-yard line when Gore called for Corbin to take a knee with less than minute left on the clock. Chiefland let the clock run out.

Gore said there was no point in attempting to score another touchdown. In Class 1A football, he said, Chiefland could very well find itself in a similar position someday.

The mercy rule kicked in midway through the fourth quarter when Chiefland took more than a 35-point lead. When the mercy rule comes into play, the clock runs continuously for the remainder of the game.