

Highlanders' gamble pays

Conversion extends streak

By DAVE BOEHLER
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Whitefish Bay — Dave Keel made the decision. He did not decide the play.

Homestead risked first place in the North Shore Conference and its record 37-game winning streak in the league by going for two points instead of the tie in overtime Friday against Whitefish Bay.

Running back Michael Hahn, with just four carries in the game, scored from the 3-yard line to give the defending state champions, ranked No. 1 in the state, a 15-14 victory over Bay on homecoming night.

"I'm a fan at the end there," said Keel, the Highlanders'

coach. "Our senior linemen said to me, 'Coach, run 'wedge.' We will put the ball in the end zone.' We've got five senior offensive linemen. I didn't call the play.

"I said, 'OK guys, it's on your shoulders. Put it in there.' I'll be darned if they didn't."

Homestead, 5-0 in the conference, entered the game ranked ninth in the area in scoring at 34.7 points per game.

Bay lost to 4-3, 3-2 in conference.

"We needed to turn them away and we didn't get it done," said Bay coach Jim Tietjen, who has never beaten Homestead in his six years at the helm. "It's not disappointing. We were so close. We're there. Our program is kicking at the top. If we would've won tonight, we would've clinched a playoff

spot and probably the North Shore Conference with two games to play. Probably."

Bay got the ball first in overtime and got a 4-yard touchdown run up the middle from Ryan Pandl. Jack Fagan's kick gave the Blue Dukes a 14-7 lead.

Homestead got its chance from the 10-yard line, and got a 7-yard touchdown pass from Casey Barnes to Justin Howard on fourth down. Howard made a diving catch and landed on the goal line, and the official said the ball crossed the line.

As Homestead was lining up for the 2-point conversion, Bay called time out.

"I only have one thought in that situation," Keel said. "I rather be the goat and not put it on a kid's shoulders. So if we don't make it, it's my fault. I don't want to have to have a kicker on the line in a situa-

tion where a missed kick is going to cost us the game. If we get it, outstanding. If we don't get it, blame me."

One more play. Score and win. Don't score and lose.

"I was a little scared and didn't know exactly what was going to happen," Hahn said. "I had to trust my offensive linemen. At first, it kind of got clogged up and then I looked for the hole and went through it. I can't thank my linemen any more."

And after the winning play?

"I honestly wasn't quite sure what was going on," Hahn said. "I was frozen in the moment."

Homestead..... 0 7 0 0 8 - 15
Whitefish Bay..... 7 0 0 0 7 - 14

WFB: Trevon Love 13 pass from Jimmy Sherburne (Joe Lucey kick). HOM: Brett Werner-Powell 5 run (Alex Bangert kick). WFB: Ryan Pandl 4 run (Lucey kick). HOM: Justin Howard 7 pass from Casey Barnes (Mike Hahn run).

Total yardage — WFB 260, HOM 257. Top passers — HOM: Barnes 12-21-129-1. WFB: Sherburne 11-21-166-1. Top receivers — HOM: How-

ard 6-82.



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Friday, October 05, 2007

Homestead 15, Whitefish Bay 14

Homestead	0	7	0	0	15
Whitefish Bay	7	0	0	0	14

Halftime Score: Homestead 7, Whitefish Bay 7

Summary

First Quarter

WFB: Trevon Love 13 yd. TD - Pass from Jimmy Sherburne (Joe Lucey PAT - Kick)

Second Quarter

HOM: Brett Werner-Powell 5 yd. TD - Run (Alex Bangert PAT - Kick)

WFB: Ryan Pandl 4 yd. TD - Run (Joe Lucey PAT - Kick)

HOM: Justin Howard 7 yd. TD - Pass from Casey Barnes (Mike Hahn PAT - 2-Point Run)

Team Totals

	Whitefish Bay	Homestead
Rushing Yards	94	120
Passing Yards	166	137
Total Offensive Yards	260	257
Comp/Att/Int	11 / 21 / 1	13 / 22 / 1
Comp. Pct	52.4	59.1
First Downs	14	14
Punts / Average	1 / 34	3 / 39
Fumbles / Lost	2 / 1	0 / 0
Penalties / Yards	3 / 15	3 / 20

Team	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Homestead.....	5	0	6	1
Germantown.....	3	2	4	3
Milw. Lutheran.....	3	2	4	3
Port Washington.....	3	2	4	3
Whitefish Bay.....	3	2	4	3
Cedarburg.....	2	3	3	4
Grafton.....	0	4	1	5
Nicolet.....	0	4	0	6

HHS clinches title with thriller over Bay

Did Homestead senior wideout Justin Howard catch quarterback Casey Barnes' fourth down pass over the goal line for a TD, leading to a heart-stopping 15-14 decision over host Whitefish Bay Friday night?

Howard remains inscrutable on that question, leaving it up to the officials, as it led to fullback Mike Hahn's hard-charging two-point conversion a play later and a win that would clinch a tie for the Highlanders' seventh straight North Shore Conference title.

"All I know is that I saw the goal-line and I got there and the ref made his decision," Howard said. "Coaches told me to run a short fade with a little stutter and Casey and I made a play."

The stunned Bay sideline couldn't tell if Howard was over on the play that went to the front corner of the end zone on the Homestead sideline. A few plays earlier, Bay's Ryan Pandl had bolted over from four yards out on the first series in overtime and Joe Lucey's extra-point made it 14-7 Blue Dukes.

But when the TD signal went up on Howard's catch on Homestead's turn to make it 14-13, there was no doubt in Highlander coach Dave Keel's mind about what he was going to do.

"Absolutely we were going to go for two," he said. "I'm not going to put pressure on a kid (a kicker) to tie it up in a situation like that. If we're going for the win, of course. I just don't like having a kid facing that kind of pressure. When we scored, the kids all knew we were going for two."

And then it came down to the senior fullback Hahn, who had to come out of last week's win over Milwaukee Lutheran with a banged-up knee. He worked hard in rehab this week and made himself ready to start.

"When I heard I was going to get the ball I suddenly felt a lot was riding on me," Hahn said. "I give all the credit to the O-line and to Casey for getting the ball in my belly. I was glad the knee healed up. It was feeling good during the game but that last run felt the best."

Hahn took the ball right up the gut, was slowed for a micro-second and then fell into the end zone for the deciding points.

You could have heard a pin drop from the Bay side at that point, as the 3,000-plus homecoming and stadium dedication night crowd was stunned by the turn of events. Homestead improved to 5-0 in conference play, good for no worse than a share of the league title, and 6-1 overall while Bay fell to 3-2 and 4-3 overall.

Coupled with Germantown's loss to Port Washington, there is now a four-way tie for second in the NSC as Germantown, Bay, Port and Cedarburg are all 3-2. The win also ran Homestead's conference win streak to 38 games.

"We take great pride in winning conference," Barnes said. "The coaches really emphasize that. When we went up to Menominee (Michigan) earlier this year and lost, the coaches said keep your heads up, conference is still coming."

Hahn's decisive run ended a thrilling, maddening game that saw both teams leave points on the board. Both saw sure TD passes dropped by wide-open players and both saw field goals go wide.

Quarterback Jimmy Sherburne was a heroic leader for Bay, hitting 11 of 21 passes for 166 yards, including a first quarter TD to Trevon Love. He also had 15 rushes for 27 yards as top-notch wideout Lars Knudsen was held to three catches for 55 yards.

Barnes was 12 of 21 for 126 yards for Homestead as Howard had five catches for 73 yards and the decisive TD. Brett Werrner-Powell had 15 carries for 87 yards including a four-yard burst for Homestead's only other score.

"Every game's a challenge for us," Howard said. "Everybody wants to take their best shot at us so we have to go in and play our game and do the best we can."



NOW Photo Robert Lewis

Whitefish Bay's Quentin Griffin (No. 8) takes away the ball from intended receiver, Homestead's Justin Howard, during the Highlanders' homecoming game Oct. 5.

But, there's a catch

By **Steven L. Tietz**
Staff Writer

Did Homestead senior wideout Justin Howard catch quarterback Casey Barnes' fourth down pass over the goal line for a TD, leading to a heart-stopping 15-14 decision over host Whitefish Bay Friday night. Or was Howard stopped short?

Howard remained inscrutable on that question, leaving it up to the officials, as it led to fullback Mike Hahn's hard-charging two-point conversion a play later and a win that would clinch a tie for the Highlanders' seventh straight North Shore Conference title.

Howard's debatable TD grab sneaks Homestead past Bay in NSC showdown

"All I know is that I saw the goal line and I got there and the ref made his decision," Howard said. "Coaches told me to run a short fade with a little stutter and Casey and I made a play."

The stunned Bay sideline couldn't tell immediately if Howard was over on the play that went to the front corner of the end zone on the Homestead side of the field but Blue Duke coach Jim Tietjen later got a look at some of his team's own film and said that two angles

showed that the ball was not over the goal line. He was unhappy, but said sometimes things like that happen in football.

"We'll use this as a lesson and try to run the table and then see what we can do in the state playoffs," he said, "and it was a good play by him (Homestead coach Dave Keel) to go for two right away, because we were still thinking about the pass when we lined up. They pushed it on through and were able to

get the win."

Tietjen had had reason to be optimistic because a few plays earlier, Bay's Ryan Pandl bolted over from four yards out on the first series in overtime and Joe Lucey hit the extra-point to make it 14-7 Blue Dukes. But when the TD signal went up on Howard's catch on Homestead's turn to make it 14-13, there was no doubt in Keel's mind about what he was going to do.

"Absolutely, we were going to go for two," he said. "I'm not going to put pressure on a kid (a kicker) to tie it up in a situation

More on Back →

Please see **CATCH**, Page 34

Peiffer's defense rescues Pirates

Port Washington's Derek Peiffer batted down a point-after touchdown pass by **Whitefish Bay** in the second overtime, giving the Pirates a 35-34 victory. Port had a potential game-winning field goal attempt blocked with 5 seconds in regulation. Brock Loop passed for 214 yards and two touchdowns for Port. Jimmy Sherburne passed for 134 yards and three touchdowns for Bay.

Team	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Homestead.....	6	0	7	1
Cedarburg.....	4	2	5	3
Port Washington.....	4	2	5	3
Germantown.....	3	3	4	4
Milw. Lutheran.....	3	3	4	4
Whitefish Bay.....	3	3	4	4
Nicolet.....	1	5	1	7
Grafton.....	0	6	1	7



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Friday, October 12, 2007

Whitefish Bay 34, Port Washington 35

Whitefish Bay	0	7	7	7	34
Port Washington	0	7	0	14	35

Halftime Score: Whitefish Bay 7, Port Washington 7

Summary

Second Quarter

PW: Marty Clarke 15 yd. TD - Pass from Brock Loop (Matt Wood PAT - Kick)

WFB: Ryan Pandl 1 yd. TD - Run (Joe Lucey PAT - Kick)

Third Quarter

WFB: Lars Knudsen 7 yd. TD - Pass from Jimmy Sherburne (Joe Lucey PAT - Kick)

Fourth Quarter

WFB: Ryan Pandl 15 yd. TD - Run (Joe Lucey PAT - Kick)

PW: Robert Seer 5 yd. TD - Pass from Brock Loop (Matt Wood PAT - Kick)

PW: Josh Prochnow 3 yd. TD - Run (Matt Wood PAT - Kick)

WFB: Lars Knudsen 10 yd. TD - Pass from Jimmy Sherburne (Joe Lucey PAT - Kick)

PW: Josh Prochnow 1 yd. TD - Run (Matt Wood PAT - Kick)

PW: Anthony Kaske 10 yd. TD - Run (Matt Wood PAT - Kick)

WFB: Trevon Love 7 yd. TD - Pass from Jimmy Sherburne (PAT - Pass Failed)

Team Totals

	Port Washington	Whitefish Bay
Rushing Yards	200	80
Passing Yards	214	134
Total Offensive Yards	414	214
Comp/Att/Int	14 / 26 / 2	17 / 26 / 0
Comp. Pct	53.8	65.4
First Downs	18	13
Punts / Average	4 / 34	4 / 30
Fumbles / Lost	0 / 0	0 / 0
Penalties / Yards	11 / 58	5 / 45

Whitefish Bay 0 7 7 7 13 - 34
Port Washington..... 0 7 0 14 14 - 35

PW: Marty Clarke 15 pass from Brock Loop (Matt Wood kick). **WFB:** Ryan Pandl 1 run (Joe Lucey kick). **WFB:** Lars Knudsen 7 pass from Jimmy Sherburne (Joe Lucey kick). **WFB:** Ryan Pandl 15 run (Joe Lucey kick). **PW:** Robert Seer 5 pass from Brock Loop (Matt Wood kick). **PW:** Josh Prochnow 3 run (Matt Wood kick). **WFB:** Lars Knudsen 10 pass from Jimmy Sherburne (Joe Lucey kick). **PW:** Josh Prochnow 1 run (Matt Wood kick). **PW:** Anthony Kaske 10 run (Matt Wood kick). **WFB:** Trevon Love 7 pass from Jimmy Sherburne (pass failed).

Total yardage — PW 414, WFB 214. **Top passers** — WFB: Jimmy Sherburne 17-26-134-0. PW: Brock Loop 14-26-214-2. **Top receivers** — PW: Robert Seer 9-124.