

By Craig Hoffman
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Kiel found out what it's like to face a state champion Saturday. Defending Division 4 state champion Walworth Big Foot marched into Fifrlick Field and played nearly flawless in scoring a decisive 39-7 victory over the Raiders in a WIAA Level 2 football playoff game.

The Raiders were down just 15-0 late in the second quarter, but the Chiefs used an interception to set up a touchdown and tacked on a field goal to take a 25-0 halftime lead. That lead extended to 39-0 in the fourth quarter before Derek Fritsch scored on a four-yard run to give Kiel its lone score.

Quarterback Geddy Nordby was 17 for 29 passing for 196 yards. His main target was David Esswein who had 10 of the 17 receptions totaling 129 yards. Fritsch led the ground game with 39 yards as Kiel was minus running back Cody Retlich who broke fingers in the win over Racine St. Cate's.

Kiel drove to the Big Foot nine in the first quarter but could not punch the ball in.

Cory Bonde stood out defensively for Kiel recovering two fourth quarter Big Foot fumbles. Kiel ends its season at 7-4 and was making the school's first-ever appearance in the second level of playoffs.

Mason Dixon ran for 134 yards on 19 carries and a 25-yard touchdown, and Kenneth Walker added 103 yards rushing on 14 carries and a 5-yard touchdown to lead Big Foot, which outgained Kiel, 305-64, on the ground.

Jacob Wedig added a 15-yard scoring run for Big Foot, David Luczak scored on a 38-yard interception return, Jordan Gottman ran 3 yards for a touchdown, and Sean Kivlin connected on a 31-yard field goal and added four extra-point conversions.

"They are a strong team up front and we knew that coming in," said Kiel coach Chris Bennin.

Now 9-2, Big Foot will take on New Holstein in a Level 3 game this Saturday at Walworth.

"We found some weaknesses of theirs and tried to exploit them, but made mental mistakes ourselves."

Bennin also the season was terrific.

"Few people thought we would be a 7-win team. We proved a lot of people wrong."