

Chippewa Valley wins Division 1 Michigan high school football title

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Chippewa Valley players raise the Division 1 state championship trophy Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

DETROIT -- Clinton Township Chippewa Valley's defense has risen to the occasion all season.

When the Big Reds needed it in the worst way Saturday, it delivered yet again.

Chippewa Valley stopped Clarkston's potentially winning two-point conversion with 23 seconds left, and the Big Reds held on for a 31-30 victory in a Division 1 championship-game thriller at Ford Field.



Clarkston quarterback Jake Jensen tries to elude the Chippewa Valley defense Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

The defending state champion Wolves, who were seeking their fourth state title in six years, pulled within a point on Jake Jensen's 7-yard TD pass to Matt Miller and opted to go for two. But the Big Reds' Michael Garwood made the big defensive play, dropping Josh Luther well short of the end zone on the conversion attempt.

Chippewa Valley recovered the ensuing onside kick and ran out the clock, securing a 14-0 season and the Big Reds' first state title since 2001, when they won it all in Division 2, and second championship in school history.

Clarkston finished with an 11-3 record.

Continue to scroll down for more details on this game.

PHOTO GALLERY: [See images from Jake May and Mike Krebs from this game](#)

FINAL STATS: [Get the stats and scoring summary from this game](#)

After Chippewa Valley made the game-saving defensive stop on Clarkston's potentially game-winning two-point conversion, the Chippewas still had to recover the onside kick. They did that, and then it was time for the victory formation.

After the final 22 seconds ticked off, it was time to really celebrate.

Watch the video above to see the big defensive play and the Big Reds' victory celebration.

KEY MOMENT



Chippewa Valley senior David Ellis (8) runs around, celebrating the Big Reds' 31-30 victory Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

It's easy to point to Chippewa Valley's big defensive stop on the two-point conversion, but perhaps the biggest moment of the game came late in the first half after Clarkston had trimmed the Big Reds' lead to 17-10 with 41 seconds left.

Chippewa Valley senior speedster David Ellis fielded the ensuing kickoff at his own 6, broke left and sprinted down the sideline for a 94-yard, back-breaking TD return.

That proved a huge swing in the game, giving the Big Reds a 24-10 lead at halftime. They obviously needed every last point to hold off the Wolves.

No. 1 STAR



Chippewa Valley senior quarterback Tommy Schuster fires a pass Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

Tommy Schuster, Chippewa Valley. The 6-foot, 195-pound senior was a perfect 13-of-13 passing for 205 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions in leading the Big Reds to victory. Both of his scoring passes went to senior Martice Bunting, covering 36 and 25 yards. The 13-for-13 passing performance is a state finals record for completion percentage with 12 or more attempts.

No. 2 STAR



Clarkston senior quarterback Jake Jensen finds running room Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

Jake Jensen, Clarkston. The 6-3, 180-pound QB was the main reason the Wolves were able to hang around throughout the game. He carried the ball nine times for 121 yards, including a 44-yard TD sprint, and he completed 10 of 15 passes for 110 yards with one TD and one pick.

No. 3 STAR



Chippewa Valley defenders, including Michael Garwood (57), make a play against Clarkston Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

Michael Garwood, Chippewa Valley. The 6-1, 205-pound senior defensive lineman made five tackles, but the biggest stop of the game does not officially go on the stat sheet because it was on a two-point conversion. With the game on the line, he spun down Clarkston's Josh Luther well short of the goal line to preserve the Big Reds' 31-30 lead with 23 seconds left in the game.

FIRST QUARTER: Chippewa Valley 14, Clarkston 3



Chippewa Valley's Martice Bunting hauls in an over-the-shoulder TD pass from Tommy Schuster in the first quarter Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

The Big Reds started quickly in this game, taking the opening kickoff and zipping down the field 76 yards in six plays. The game's first drive finished with a 3-yard touchdown run by senior Andre Chenault, and Chippewa Valley led 7-0 less than 2 ½ minutes into the contest.

After an athletic interception along the sideline by Ja'Von Kimpson, CV was in business again midway through the first quarter. The Big Reds moved 55 yards in five plays, capped by a beautiful 36-yard TD pass from senior Tommy Schuster to senior Martice Bunting in stride against tight coverage for a 14-0 lead with 6:05 left in the first.

Clarkston got on the board three minutes later on Buffalo commit Tristan Mattson's 38-yard field goal with 2:52 left in the quarter. The field goal was set up by Jake Billette's 24-yard halfback pass to Conor

Donahue and Billette's 22-yard run.

SECOND QUARTER: Chippewa Valley 24, Clarkston 10



Clarkston's Jacob Honstetter (9) celebrates his second-quarter TD run with Jake Jensen Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

Chippewa Valley lefty kicker Niko Kepi answered Mattson's 38-yard field goal late in the first quarter with a 36-yarder of his own just past the midway point of the second quarter.

That gave the Big Reds a 17-3 lead, but there was more drama to come in the frame, all in the final minute.

The fireworks started on third-and-1 from the 3 for Clarkston, as Jacob Honstetter took the handoff, made a would-be tackler miss and dove into the end zone to pull the Wolves within 17-10 with 41 seconds left in the half. They had the momentum.

That changed in a matter of 15 seconds, as Chippewa Valley senior playmaker David Ellis took the ensuing kickoff to the house, 94 yards, to promptly restore the Big Reds' two-TD lead at 24-10.

Halftime stats: Total offense-Chippewa Valley 192, Clarkston 109; Rushing-Chippewa Valley 88, Clarkston 75; Passing-Chippewa Valley 104, Clarkston 34; First downs-Chippewa Valley 10, Clarkston 10; Time of possession-Chippewa Valley 14:45, Clarkston 9:15.

THIRD QUARTER: Chippewa Valley 31, Clarkston 24



Clarkston's Jacob Honstetter (9) dives for extra yards as he gets wrapped up in a slew of Chippewa Valley defenders Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

Much in the way that one team answered the other late in the first half, they did it again in the third, only Clarkston got a 2-for-1 in TDs.

The Wolves took the second-half kickoff and marched 65 yards in 10 plays, chewing half of the clock in the quarter. On third-and-2 from the 5, Jake Billette drove his legs and moved the pile into the end zone to pull his team within 24-17 with 5:51 left in the third.

Chippewa Valley answered like a champ, going the other way 80 yards in eight plays on its ensuing possession. With Schuster leaning back and bracing for a big hit, he unleashed a pass to Bunting, who got behind the defense and reeled it in for a 25-yard TD. That capped a 4 ½-minute drive and restored the Big Reds' two-TD lead, 31-17, with 1:20 left in the quarter.

That two-TD lead did not last long. Clarkston moved down the field, and on second-and-1 from the CV 44, QB Jake Jensen took the shotgun snap, hesitated, then took off up the middle to nothing but turf and outran the defense for the score. That pulled the Wolves back within seven, 31-24, with 15 seconds left in the third.

FOURTH QUARTER: Chippewa Valley 31, Clarkston 30



Clarkston's Matt Miller runs into the end zone on the 7-yard TD reception that pulled the Wolves within a point with 23 seconds remaining Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. (Mike Krebs | MLive.com)

If you thought the fireworks were something to see at the end of the first half and during the third quarter, you had not seen anything yet.

Only six points were scored in the fourth, but it was the manner in which the quarter played out that made it something to see.

In the game's final 2 ½ minutes, Clarkston drove 78 yards in 10 plays, covering 2:05, and the Wolves pulled within a point on Matt Miller's 7-yard TD pass from Jensen with 23 seconds remaining. On that drive, Clarkston converted five first downs and just kept moving the chains downfield.

The Wolves lined up for two, then called timeout. They came back out and went for two, but Luther was taken down by CV's Michael Garwood well short of the goal line on a reverse run-pass option around right end.

Chippewa Valley's Myren Harris recovered the ensuing onside kick, and with Clarkston out of timeouts, the Big Reds kneeled and were able to milk the final 22 seconds.

BY THE NUMBERS

8: Game-high tackles by Chippewa Valley junior Myles Harris, who had six solos.

347-320: Edge in total offense for Clarkston over Chippewa Valley.

7-of-10: Third-down conversions for Clarkston, compared to 3-of-7 for Chippewa Valley.

6-for-6: Both teams were perfect in the red zone. Clarkston went 4-for-4, while Chippewa Valley went 2-for-2.

176: Total points allowed by Clarkston this season, which averages to 12.6 points per game.

205: Total points allowed by Chippewa Valley this season, which averages to 14.6 points per game.