



Game-Day Thrills



Jeff Place • From the Sidelines



Rocket Launcher

(Jeff Place photos)

With summer hitting the midway point, I thought it might be fun to jot down a few of my observations from this past sports season.

As many of you know, I have broadcast the Prosser Mustangs football and basketball games for a long time.

When you're not at field level, things may look impressive from the broadcast booth or upper reaches of the stadium, but when you're on the sidelines, you see the 'real' action.

When I was at the Earl Barden all-state football game at East Valley this past June, I loved being near the action.

It was fun interacting with officials like Brad Cramer, or Frank Navarro, who played football for me so many years ago.

I was impressed with the out-going personality of quarterback, Hayden Teeter of King's, who played for the East.

He was oohing and awing every teammates' great plays. He would often run up and congratulate them with a huge smile.

He was talking non-stop, and I think I could have run a documentary film just on him. His enthusiasm was contagious.

I also loved watching Selah's Michael Ray and his emotions. He was

intense at times. I later found out he is an elite lacrosse player but is heading to the University of Montana (Missoula) to play football.

But, perhaps, one of my biggest thrills was watching Prosser's Kaiden Rivera play and later talking with him.

I don't get the opportunity to talk with the players much because they are warming up or preparing for the game when I am getting ready for my pregame broadcast.

Kaiden made a throw that was simply jaw-dropping.

It was early in his first appearance, and he had to thread the ball under a defender. The receiver went low, and Rivera threw a frozen rope on a dime.

I was awestruck.

K-Gun will be playing football this year in the Tri-Cities for former Kennewick high coach, Bill Templeton, who is starting a Christian JC team.

• Speaking of football, Grandview has hired Alex Jeffrey to replace Darren Metzger, who is now on staff at Chiawana.

Jeffrey is a Grandview teacher who is an assistant track coach and previously was an assistant to Metzger. He also coached football at Wapato in the past.

Btw - The Wolves are looking for a new head football coach as well.



Waiting Game

Wapato Girl's Basketball

(George Garcia Photo)



Ride 'Em Cowboy!

Check out Toppenish Rodeo Action On Jeff Place Sports Facebook Page

(George Garcia Photo)

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