

Meridian edges Borah in wild SIC matchup

Last-second 'Hail Mary' pass falls just short

By Jordan Rodriguez
The Idaho Statesman

Eighteen inches.

In a game that featured six lead changes and 915 yards of total offense, Borah High football team came up 18 inches short Friday night, falling 41-36 to Meridian.

Lions quarterback Braden Corpus heaved a 46-yard pass to the goal line on the final play of regulation, but receiver Ben Tukacovic was marked down a half-yard short as the Meridian sideline erupted in celebration.

"It was a heart attack," said Meridian coach Kip Crofts. "What Corpus does on the football field never ceases to amaze me. He never quit and Borah never quit, but we are a good football team too, and I think our kids are starting to realize it."

Meridian senior running back Hayden Stout rushed for 200 yards, and junior quarterback Jake Berard added 197 as the Warriors rolled up 431 yards of offense without completing a pass.

Stout had four rushing TDs, including a go-ahead 2-yard plunge with 1:31 remaining.

"Our offensive line created a push all night, and (Borah) couldn't stop us," Stout said. "



Grant Darrington, Carlton Strough and Sam O'Neil chase a Meridian runner.

Jake made good reads on the option all night and we were just able to pound and pound and wear them down."

Meridian dug itself a 21-7 halftime deficit as Corpus engineered four first-half scoring drives and the Warriors hurt themselves with penalties and a costly fumble. But Berard scampered 67 yards for a touchdown to open the second half, igniting the home crowd and setting the table for a wild

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The final play

Ben Tukacovic was deemed short of the goal line on the game's last play. Here are what some Borah players said afterward (as quoted by The Senator).

"I caught the ball and rolled into the end zone. The refs marked it short. I was upset. I thought we could have played better throughout. There was a lot of sadness and anger." – **Ben Tukacovic**

"I was right by Ben. He jumped over the Meridian guy and caught the ball. I saw his torso go in, but then the refs said no. I was not happy at all. Words can't describe how I felt." – **Kion Williams**

"The refs made a bad call not in our favor. I was angry and there was a lot of disappointment." – **Trevor Burkholder**

"Ben was in. However, the refs made the call and there's nothing we can go back and change." – **Cody McKague**



Sophomore **Hawkins Mann** (middle) joins the Lions in running onto the field through a group of Borah cheerleaders.

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finish.

A 28-yard touchdown run by Stout and an 8-yard keeper by Berard gave Meridian its first lead, 27-21, with 8:16 remaining.

Chaos ensued.

First, Corpus launched a 52-yard TD bomb to Kion Williams, giving Borah a 28-27 lead with 6:59 to play.

Then, Stout scampered in from 26 yards out, putting Meridian back on top, 33-28, with 4:25 to play.

Corpus fired another downfield laser, hitting McKague for 56 yards. The senior quarterback punched it in himself from 4 yards away, reclaiming the Borah lead, 36-33.

Meridian got the ball back with 3:30 remaining and promptly marched 60 yards in six plays for Stout's go-ahead TD. Borah needed to go 82 yards in 1:26 to win it, but Corpus and the offense could only manage 81.

Corpus finished 19-of-33 for 422 yards and a TD. He also led the Lions (2-1, 2-1) with 40 rushing yards.

"We knew Meridian would come out and run the ball, but I didn't think they would gouge us as much as they did," said Borah coach Darren Corpus. "They put us on our heels and we couldn't stop them, so kudos to them."

GAME SUMMARY

Borah	13	8	0	15	-	36
Meridian	0	7	14	20	-	41

- B** – Hunter Kenyon 8 run (Jacob Szuch kick)
- B** – FG Szuch 28
- B** – FG Szuch 28
- M** – Hayden Stout 2 run (Tyler Smith kick)
- B** – Kenyon 1 run (Trevor Burkholder pass from Braden Corpus)
- M** – Jake Berard 66 run (Smith kick)
- M** – Stout 28 run (Smith kick)
- M** – Berard 9 run (kick blocked)
- B** – Kion Williams 52 pass from Corpus (Szuch kick)
- M** – Stout 26 run (run failed)
- B** – Corpus 4 run (Cody McKague pass from Corpus)
- M** – Stout 2 run (Stout run)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Borah – Corpus 18-40, Kenyon 11-35, Szuch 1-(-13). Meridian – Stout 26-200, Berard 18-197, Tyler Berkheiser 3-(-3), Caleb Baker 1-38, Bryson Stout 2-0.

PASSING: Borah - Corpus 19-33-0-422 yards. Meridian – Berard 0-2-0-0 yards.

RECEIVING: Casey McKague 7-210, Williams 5-111, Hayden Powell 3-26, Tyler Higby 2-64, Ben Tucakovic 1-13, Kenyon 1-(-2).