

Thompson's Big Night Too Much for Murray

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

Hillcrest's **Danny Thompson** had the best game of his career Friday night, and the Huskies needed every bit of it.

Thompson caught 11 passes for 127 yards on offense, and then made things miserable for Murray on defense, with a pair of interceptions, as Hillcrest claimed its first victory of the season, 27-21.

"It was a nailbiter," said Hillcrest coach **Kirk Merhish**, whose team is now 1-1. "It was a real test for our kids. We got to see who are our weapons."

Quarterback **Tanner Kemp** ended up being one of them, with Thompson's help. Kemp had a tough time holding on to the ball, but completed 22 of 31 passes for 247 yards. He threw just one scoring pass.

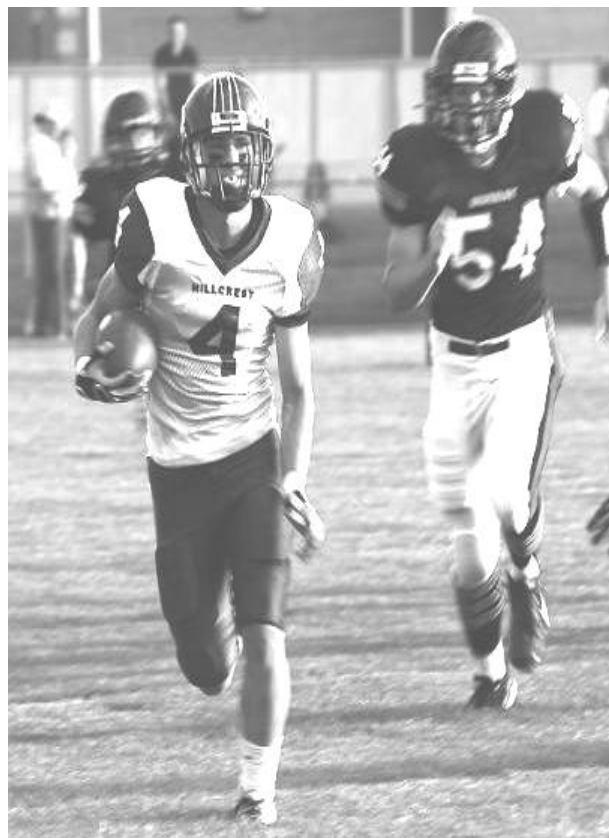
Ironically, it went to **Matt Pecht** and it ended up being the difference in the game.

"We controlled them. We had them down," said Merhish. "Then they got on the (score) board and had us on our heels."

Hillcrest had a 21-7 lead by early in the second quarter, thanks to scoring runs by Kemp, **Trae Kranz** and Pecht, who was the leading runner in the team's otherwise dismal rushing offense with 39 yards on seven carries.

Murray gained momentum in the third period. Senior quarterback Dee Hamala scored on a short run and also fired a touchdown pass to Wyatt Woodard. In-between, the Huskies kept the lead on Kemp's touchdown pass to Pecht.

The Spartans couldn't get any closer



Matt Pecht outraces a Murray defender for big yardage. Pecht was Hillcrest's leading rusher.

SCORING SUMMARY

Hillcrest	13	14	0	0	-	27
Murray	7	7	0	7	-	21

H – Trae Kranz 3 run (Jeff Brown kick)

H – Tanner Kemp 7 run (kick failed)

M – Dee Hamala 1 run (Zack Battenfield kick)

H – Matt Pecht 4 run (Brown kick)

M – Hamala 2 run (Battenfield kick)

H – Pecht 41 pass from Kemp (Brown kick)

Because of Hillcrest's defense and lost their 19th consecutive game. Besides Thompson's two interceptions, **Bridger Dallimore** and **Mohamed Ibrahim** had one each. The turnover margin was a big change from the first game.

Continued on next page

HILLCREST FOOTBALL: Huskies 27, Murray 21



Danny Thompson stretches to grab one of the 11 receptions he made during Hillcrest's win over Murray.

Continued from previous page

It also allowed Merhish to breathe a sigh of relief at earning the first win.

"We're 3-0 against them (over the last three years), but it's a great matchup for us," he said. "It's a

It has also been close. Last year's result was about the same with Hillcrest taking a 19-14 victory.

Hamala was Murray's leading rusher with 61 yards on 17 carries. He also passed for 157 yards. Kamron Sanders was his top receiver with three catches for 91 yards.

Hillcrest, meanwhile, helped itself with a good game by its special teams. Pecht and **Matt Augustyn** each had a kickoff return that allowed the Huskies to start their offense near mid-field.



Mohamed Ibrahim looks for running room after grabbing his only interception of the season.