

Good start doesn't last

Rocky can't stop defending champs in long-awaited 5A opener for both

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

For the Coeur d'Alene football team, Friday started early as sleepy players boarded a charter bus bound for Meridian.

For Rocky Mountain, the day seemed just as long.

Coeur d'Alene was the team rewarded. The defending 5A state champions opened the 2011 season with a 37-24 victory over Rocky on a hot August night at Brighton Stadium.

"We're kind of used to getting on a bus and traveling," Coeur d'Alene coach Shawn Amos said. "We have to do that to find games. Boise (schools) won't come up to us so we have to come down to them. It's a good experience for our guys."

Rocky, of course, made the long trip the year before. And, just like last year, Chad Chalich picked up right where he left off, completing 28-of-34 passes for 384 yards and three touchdowns to three different receivers.

"The good thing is we won the football game, but we didn't look as good as we could have," Amos said. "We have a lot of things to work on. We were sloppy in a lot of areas."

The Vikings went home on a high note — with full bellies. More than 30 pizza boxes were stacked up outside the Coeur d'Alene locker room after the win, as the team had to head back up north immediately following the game.

But players say the victory makes the long drive more tolerable.

"To go home with a win, the atmosphere on the bus will be much better," Chalich said. "We can



TOP: Sam Randall shows his excitement after Rocky returned a kickoff for a touchdown in the first quarter.

BOTTOM: Tanner Kauffman tries to get by a Coeur d'Alene defender to catch a pass.

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ROCKY FOOTBALL: Coeur d'Alene 37, Grizzlies 24



GAME SUMMARY

Coeur d'Alene	13	17	0	7	-	37
Rocky Mountain	14	3	0	7	-	24

RM – David Trompke 34 run (Ty Prince kick)
CD – Carlos Martinez 81 run (kick failed)
RM – Demetrius Oliver 98 kickoff return (Prince kick)
CD – Martinez 18 run (Parker Wilson kick)
RM – FG Prince 40
CD – Bubba Duran 12 pass from Chad Chalich (Wilson kick)
CD – Joe Roletto 55 pass from Chalich (Wilson kick)
CD – FG Wilson 49
CD – Cody Schneider 39 run (Wilson kick)
RM – Jason Crimmins 9 pass from Riley Bradshaw (Prince kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: CDA – Martinez 5-108, Schneider 8-61. Rocky – Crimmins 23-65, Trompke 2-28, Bradshaw 12-28.

PASSING: CDA – Chalich 28-34-0-384 yards. Rocky – Bradshaw 9-14-0-98 yards.

RECEIVING: CDA – Deon Watson 6-109, Duran 6-107. Rocky – Ian Anderson 2-33, Dakota Weindel 2-32, Crimmins 3-15.

TOP LEFT: Assistant coach Todd Roberts.

MIDDLE LEFT: Coach Jason Warr.

TOP MIDDLE: Tevin Manu (20) and Charlie Malouf listen to their coaches.



Justin Tucker, Garrett Munson, Adam Lewis & Jake Strickler.



Captains meet for the coin toss.

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celebrate the win instead of just being down on a loss.”

Friday’s game didn’t exactly start smoothly. In fact, Rocky’s season couldn’t have begun any better.

On Coeur d’Alene’s first play, Rocky’s Adam Lewis pounced on a loose football after a botched exchange between Chalich and running back Carlos Martinez.

Lewis recovered the ball on the Coeur d’Alene 37-yard-line, and Rocky needed just two plays to score the first touchdown of the game when David Trompke broke free for a 30-yard run straight through the middle of the Vikings’ line.

It was the first of three touchdowns scored in a little less than two minutes. The Vikings scored on

an 81-yard run by Martinez, but Demetrius Oliver put Rocky back on top with an electrifying 98-yard kickoff return.

That was the last Rocky highlight for a while, though, as the Vikings’ offense got into gear and took a 30-17 lead into the break.

For this young Rocky team, its opener was a mixed bag. Sophomore quarterback Riley Bradshaw threw for 98 yards and a TD and Trompke, Oliver and Jason Crimmins scored, but the Grizzlies’ defense never found a way to contain Chalich.

“We did some good things and some bad things, but you’ve just got to build off of it and go,” Rocky Mountain coach Jason Warr said.

The Idaho Statesman contributed to this story.