

## **Saskatoon Sweeps Provincial Football Championships: Falcons Win First 3A Title**

Nov 15, 2009

The Saskatoon High School Football League reclaimed some credibility this weekend on two fronts at the Provincial High School Football Championships. In the 4A Provincial Championship, the Aden Bowman Bears scored 20 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to beat the Regina City Champion Winston Knoll Wolverines 20-19. The Marion Graham Falcons scored 21 unanswered points in the second quarter to take a 21-0 lead into the half and went on to win their first 3A Provincial title in school history with a 28-12 victory over the Regina League Champions - the Weyburn Eagles.

The Bears, undefeated in 2009, claimed their second Provincial crown in the last two years, and avenged a 66-0 drubbing to the Leboldus Golden Suns in the 2008 title game. The Bears, extending their scoreless streak in the past two title games to over 7 quarters, found themselves down 19-0 early in the fourth quarter before the improbable comeback began. Reaching a point of desperation, the Bears started to get some defensive stops and improved their field position in the fourth quarter. The Wolverines, recognized for their passing attack, helped out by having a series of incomplete passes which kept the clock from running. At the same time, Aden Bowman started putting some offensive drives together and scored two quick running scores and found themselves only down 5 with minutes remaining. On their game winning drive the Bears faked a punt to keep a drive alive and with only 40 seconds remaining scored a major on a Drew Burko pass and great catch to take a 20-19 lead. Aden Bowman knocked down a Wolverine Hail Mary pass on the goal line to secure the victory and complete a great character and comeback victory and undefeated season.

Marion Graham and Weyburn played for a 3A provincial crown in a game of contrasting styles. The Eagles were recognized for their power running game. 80% of their offensive attack coming through their tailback position on the ground or through the air. Marion Graham has shown all season to be a skill, speed and execution oriented offensive team and a team whose defense and special teams have grown stronger in recent weeks. Both teams relied on their strengths in the championship game. Proven once again, speed kills. In the first quarter it appeared that power was performance, but the Falcon team defense stayed tough despite a strong opening drive which saw the Eagles behind their big offensive line muscle their way deep into Falcon territory, before the Marion Graham defense stiffened. The turning point of the half was when the Falcons used a third down punt fake to continue a drive and improve field position. That gave the Falcon punt team an opportunity to deliver. The Falcons trapped the Eagles inside the five on a great punt and from thereafter controlled the game.

Falcon Quarterback Dylan Hart started to attack the Eagle secondary, finding speedy receivers and throwing three touchdown passes in the quarter to give the Falcons a 21-0 lead at the half. The Falcons also started to use their speed weapons on the ground, attacking outside against the bigger but slower Eagles and used speed on punt returns which set up good field position for the offense. Weyburn started well early in the third frame, settling for a field goal to start the half. They also capitalized on a Falcon fumble which they returned for a score. The Eagles had hope, but Marion Graham broke their hearts with a faked field goal for a 35 yard touchdown pass to Matt Kopperud late in third quarter, securing the victory and the Falcons first 3A Provincial Championship in school history.

The Bears and the Falcons will celebrate Provincial Championship titles with banner ceremonies later in the school year. Each school will celebrate their third provincial crowns in school history. SSSAD congratulates both teams on outstanding seasons and bringing football championships back to the Bridge City.