

TOP STORY TOPICAL

Braylen Warren deals, TayTay Jenkins dazzles as Westside dominates Creighton Prep

Julianna Schwindt
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Omaha Westside's quarterback, senior Braylen Warren, has an eye for openings and unhurried precision when he throws. Senior running back TayTay Jenkins is blink-and-you-miss-him fast and knows how to slip through defensive cracks. And the rest of the Warriors know exactly how to help their elite athletes shine.

On Thursday night, one of Omaha's top rivalries played out as No. 2 Omaha Westside took on No. 4 Creighton Prep at Burke High School. For the eighth time in a row, Westside came out on top, 42-10.

Just 90 seconds in, a pick-six by Westside's Kor'Dai Richard from the 27-yard line gave the Warriors the lead. From then on, everything was coming up Westside.

"We started the game out on defense, and we had that pick-six. I think that kind of got the ball rolling," head coach Paul Limongi said. "We just wanted to be physical. We wanted to pay attention to detail, and we wanted to play like brothers."

Within five minutes, they had another touchdown, this time on a 37-yard reception by Jenkins, making the score 14-0.

"That's my duo right there. That's my best friend," Warren said of Jenkins. "Having him in the backfield is just really a dream come true."

The Junior Jays scored their first points at the start of the second quarter on a 41-yard field goal by Rory McGarry, making it 14-3.

The Warriors' offense continued to roll throughout the second quarter, highlighted by an impressive 61-yard pass from Warren to Bryce Johnson. That led to another touchdown and a third good kick from Ty Hanna for the extra point.

At halftime, the Warriors led 28-3.

"The first half, we came out with a bunch of energy," senior wide receiver Andrew Tagge said. "(Starting) out the year hot was really important for us."

Fourteen seconds into the second half, Westside had another touchdown after a 61-yard kickoff return by Colin Hawkins and 19 rushing yards by Jenkins for the score.

"They work off each other," Limongi said of Warren and Jenkins. "They really know each other well, and usually one makes the other better. So they're great teammates, they're very good friends, and they're a good one-two punch."

The only other points for Creighton Prep came with 4:11 left in the game on a 3-yard rushing touchdown by sophomore Evan Leggett. McGarry made the extra point, making it 42-10.

Jenkins finished the night with 79 rushing yards, 37 receiving yards and four touchdowns. Warren had 189 passing yards and 40 rushing yards.

"[Warren] is awesome. He's probably one of the best football players I've ever played with," Tagge said. "He's a really smart guy. He helps me out with a lot. Often he's picking me up, I'm picking him up."

For Creighton Prep, juniors Ben Lesley and Noah Garden split time at quarterback. Lesley had 59 passing yards to Garden's 39. Junior Jake Kearney led the team in rushing with 52 yards. Junior Jacob Ford led in receiving yards with 39.

As they hoisted the blue and gold trophy above their heads, the Warriors knew this was just the start of a long season. Next week, they'll face Lee's Summit, Missouri, a matchup Limongi called "a big one."

"We've just got to keep fighting and working and staying together," Limongi said.

"Never be satisfied and do the best we can each and every day. So we'll see how we do tomorrow and go from there."

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