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9. 2000 Woodinville "The Beginning"
8. 2006 Eastlake "Greatest Show on Turf"
7. XXX
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In ten short years Pop Keeney has become the most dreaded place to play for opposing teams. Whether it's the raucous fans or the stifling cat quick Bothell defense, when the Cougars are in town, Pop Keeney has become the place to be on Friday nights. Number eight and nine on our list are classic PK matchups. But we begin the countdown on the road. And on the plateau with the only Cougar loss to make the list:

#10 October 28, 2008: Bothell at Skyline

Why it was important: After two difficult blowout losses to Skyline in previous seasons, Bothell proves in front of a na-

tional television audience that they can beat the champs and laid the foundation for the 2010 Kingco title.

Although this game ended as a loss, this game was too meaningful to ignore. With 5 minutes left in the game Bothell, the "bit part" actor in this gridiron drama led the nationally ranked Spartans 12-7. With a standing room only crowd of 3500 fans and a national television audience tuned in to ESPN, Nick Kaylor's 39 yard Field Goal sent the Cougar sideline into a raucous celebration. The ensuing onside "pooch" kickoff, intended to give the ball back to the Cougars would have sealed the game. As planned, the Skyline receiver fumbled the catch and a wild scramble took place near the Bothell sideline. Although the ball was initially recovered by Bothell, Skyline's Gino Simone managed to pull the ball away in the pile of players. From there Skyline went on a 4 minute 71 yard drive, ending with a Jake Heaps to Kasen Williams pass in the corner of the endzone.

It had taken most of four quarters of defensive football to get to this point. Bothell's defense had held the Spartans in check all night with disguised coverages and solid technique. Bothell's defensive game plan forced Heaps to throw an uncharacteristic two interceptions in the first half. Current Yale Bulldog Kurt Stottemyer was particularly effective against Heaps favorite receiver Gino Simone, netting one of the two picks.

Bothell led 9-3 at halftime, scoring the first points against Skyline's starting defense that season. Bothell's Patrick Ottorbech ran for 25 of his 99 yards on a second-quarter touchdown.

The Spartans trailed twice. At 9-3 and then 12-9 with five minutes left. It was something they had not done all season. In fact, Skyline's starting D had not given up a point before this game. But Bothell's game plan to pressure Heaps and gobble the clock



on offense worked perfectly. But the game was just five minutes too long.

Bothell came away from this game with a loss. But more importantly they came away knowing they could beat Skyline. It was twelve months later in a rematch at Pop Keeney when the seeds planted on the plateau would produce the 2010 Kingco title.

#9 September 8, 2000: Bothell at Woodinville

Why it was important: *Not only was this the first Bothell win in the very first game for Coach Bainter, but it broke a Woodinville win streak of 5 games over the Cougars. It set the tone as Bothell went on to a 9-1 record against the Falcons in the coming decade, reversing the trend that had seen Woodinville go 8-2 against the Cougars in the 90's.*

It ushered in a new era as Bothell fans got their first glimpse of the wide open offense and lock down defense that has been the trade mark of the last decade.

Senior receiver Kevin Woods netted six catches for 103 yards but was even more effective throwing for the Cougars first touchdown of the decade. The play was a double pass with quarterback Kyle Allred throwing wide to Woods, who then threw downfield to Hiroki Onitsuka for the touchdown for a 7-0 lead at the half.

Current Interlake head coach Jason Rimkus led a stingy defensive backfield that only gave up 3 completed passes in six quarters of football. Although both teams struggled offensively, Both teams added Field Goals after the break and, Woodinville matched the Cougar's score when Quarterback Kevin Agnew ran it in from 5 yards out.

With the score knotted at 10 after regulation, the Cougars had to go into overtime to beat the Falcons. Neither team could move the ball or score in the first overtime. Bothell held the Falcons on four straight plays and were looking to set up the winning field goal when Quarterback Kyle Allred broke a long scramble on third and twelve from the Woodinville 27. A run on first down got the cougars to the Woodinville one yard line where Fullback John Lumberg wedged it in to notch the win.

Little did those present that night realize what that win would launch. It ushered in a new era of Bothell football and a ten year run of excellence. With the win, fans began to return to Pop Keeney on Fridays. It's a tradition that continues to grow with every passing season. The 2000 team went on to the playoffs and secured the first playoff victory of the era later that season.

The 2000 Cougar squad will forever be known as the team that got the party started.

#8 October 14, 2006: Eastlake at Bothell

Why it was important: *Another highly ranked Kingco foe comes in to Pop Keeney and falls. This game cleared the path for the Cougars to the 2006 Kingco title and a top seed into the Playoffs. It provided the springboard for the first ever state title appearance for Bothell.*

Self billed by their fans as the "greatest show on turf", the Eastlake Wolves strutted into Pop Keeney with an undefeated record and a number two ranking in the state polls. But as it was all decade, defense was the name of the game for Bothell and they shut down the Wolves for a 17-3 victory at PK.

The Cougars' defense made life miserable for Eastlake, intercepting quarterback Ryan Robertson three times and forcing him into many incompletions. It also consistently stuffed the Wolves' running game.

"We knew it would be a low-scoring game," said Bothell coach Tom Bainter. "Two touchdowns would probably win it. In this game, we made them throw the ball quick or take the hit. We talked about that all week. The kids executed it perfectly."

It was the sixth straight win for Bothell as they took control of the KingCo title race. It also erased the memory of the first game loss to Oregon power Lake Oswego in Portland.

The first half was a struggle for both offenses. Bothell's Connor Risdon had the only points in the half with a 27-yard field goal. In the second half the Cougar's mixed things up with screens and crossing routes. Bothell put the first touchdown on the board with its first drive of the second half. On fourth-and-eight at the Eastlake 31, Cody Atkinson hit Blake Ward on a drag route. Ward ran into the end zone to make it 10-0. Atkinson was at his best, completing 12 of 18 passes on the evening.

The Cougars' defense did the rest, holding the Wolves to only a 27-yard field goal. The win gave the Cougars a renewed energy and confidence. It catapulted them to their third Kingco title in five years. And they continued their run into the playoffs and on to the title game in the Tacoma Dome. It marked the first time a Bothell football team had ever ventured so far in the state tournament.



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#7 October 11, 2003: Bothell at Ballard

Why it was important: Ballard was the strongest Kingco foe in the first half of the decade. Their lineup featured no less than 5 division one recruits. They had ventured into Pop Keeney a year earlier and had been dismantled by the Cougars. This win was the most significant regular season victory of the season as the Cougars marched to back to back Kingco titles.

He read the head and started to run. After that, Nate Baker had no explanation. Just all craziness and chaos following the biggest play he had ever made in a varsity football game. The All-conference safety preserved his team's biggest win of the 2003 regular season with a last-minute pick of the pigskin that preserved the Cougars' 7-3 victory over Ballard in front of an estimated crowd of 5,000 at Memorial Stadium. Bothell would hold a commanding two game lead in the conference race with only three weeks to go. In a game where red hot offenses were supposed to rule the day, Bothell's defense was stifling. In the final 4 minutes Bothell's D turned away two Ballard drives. The first occurring when Travis McKee knocked down a Cole Morgan pass on 4th and 10 near the end zone. The second ending with Baker's pick.

Ballard, which had averaged 32.2 points through five games, scored its only points on a 36-yard field goal by Mike Hart early in the second quarter. Keauntea Bankhead, Ballard's all-everything running back could only manage 40 yards, with 25 of those coming on one pass. More dangerous as a kick returner, Bankhead didn't return a single punt or kickoff. He totaled only 15 yards on 10 carries from the line of scrimmage.

Offensively the Cougars were very patient throughout the entire contest. Their seven points came on a 14 yard "Wedge" by junior Nick Jones. It was one of several Wedges he ran in the 15-play, 75-yard drive that consumed 7:15 to start the second half. From there the defense took over and turned the lights out on the high powered Beaver offense. With the win the Cougars would go on to another undefeated regular season, a second straight Kingco title, and home field for the first three rounds of the playoffs.

#6 October 18, 2002: Bothell at Woodinville

Why it was important: Two years after the first victory of the decade, the Cougars once again paced the visitor sideline at Pop Keeney facing the only team that could deny them their first Kingco title in decades. Fresh off an upset win over Lake Stevens and a game that snapped the Vikings 26 game home field win streak, the Cougars had some confidence and some swagger. Perhaps a bit too much confidence. That night they were in for the fight of their lives.

For nearly two quarters the Bothell defense was on its heels. Backpedalling as Woodinville's running game continued to pound out big gains. The Falcons were playing the intradistrict bully, pushing unbeaten Bothell all over Pop Keeney Stadium and entertaining notions of a three-touchdown lead. And it was coming from everywhere. Austin Matsui rushed for 67 yards, while Nick Acker added 58 yards on 12 runs and Brady Galloway pitched in with 31 yards. It seemed like Junior Safety Russ Wacker had to make all the

tackles. And he was doing it 10 yards down field.

How quickly it all changed. On one play. Quarterback Michael-Ryan Pattison floated a ball to the flat on a pattern almost identical to one Woodinville had run the play before for an incompleton. Bothell junior Safety Rocky Jorgensen read the route from the start, jumped in front of the receiver, grabbed the ball and raced untouched 67 yards to the end zone while the Bothell sideline erupted. The Woodinville crowd was slack-jawed and speechless. Instead of leading 21-0, the Falcons went to the lockers ahead 14-7. And the momentum had dramatically shifted.

After halftime, it was all Bothell. The Cougars adjusted from their 4-3 even front to a 3-4 freeing up the linebackers to shoot gaps and completely shut down the Falcons offense. They forced three Falcon fumbles. And, following Jorgensen's touchdown, the Cougar offense responded with three scores of their own. Bothell remained unbeaten and on the way to their first Kingco title in decades. Two weeks later the Cougars would thrash Inglemoor to secure their first title and second playoff appearance in four years.

#5 November 14, 2003: Bethel at Bothell

Why it was important: After securing a second straight Kingco title, Bothell entered the playoffs with their highest ranking ever. The number 5 team in the state was fresh off a revenge filled first round destruction of Capital, the team that had knocked Bothell out of the playoffs in the previous season. The reward was another home game against the highest ranked opponent they had faced all decade. The number 1 team in the state, Bethel was traveling to PK.

During the early part of the decade, whenever Bothell was mentioned in a conversation about football, the question would often be asked, "Do you mean Bethel"? While the Cougars languished in relative obscurity during the 90's the Bethel Braves were a perennial playoff participant. And as fate would have it, in 2003, the Bethel Braves with their number one ranking traveled to Pop Keeney for a second round matchup with "the other Bethel". During the week leading up to the game one of the main story lines was how the number one and number five ranked teams could be matched up so early in the playoffs. From Bethel's perspective, they were furious that the number one team was on the road for a second round game. Little did they know what was in store for them that evening.

Like the Woodinville game a season earlier, everything seemed to be going wrong. Bothell had stuffed the Bethel opening drive only to turn the ball over with interception. From there the Braves went on an eleven play drive to the Bothell 13. On play twelve, senior Cornerback Marc Laush stepped in front of the receiver at the goal

line and raced down the sidelines into Bethel territory. The crowd was electrified as the Cougars reeled off three straight scores to take a 17-0 lead into the locker room. More importantly, the Braves were stunned.

The game was played in front of an estimated crowd of more than 7,400, the largest gathering at Pop Keeney Stadium in at least a quarter century. The home stands filled an hour before kickoff and fans stood two and three deep around the field, including many behind the open North end zone. People who could not get into the stadium even lined up behind the chain-link fence between the stadium and 188th Street to get a glimpse of the action. The combination of Bothell's defensive speed and the noise of the crowd created the most hostile atmosphere one could imagine.

On offense Bart Ward piled up 90 yards rushing, including a 14-yard touchdown run, before halftime. Four Bothell players scored touchdowns in the romp. Nick Jones ran 14 times for 91 yards and a score and twin-tower receivers Travis McKee (three catches, 36 yards) and Zach Hekker (one catch, 15 yards) caught scoring passes from quarterback Tony Gardiner.

But it was the Bothell defense, the best in KingCo 4A, that ruled the day. Current Cougar Linebacker coach Brandon Bartlette seemed to be in the backfield on every play, as the Cougars held Bethel's 1,500-yard rusher, Zack Fletcher, to just 26 yards on 11 carries and intercepted quarterback Jimmy Wright three times.

"This is probably one of the biggest wins in the program's history," said Ward, who rushed 18 times for 123 yards and a touchdown. "Knocking off the top-ranked team in the second round of the playoffs, yeah I'd say it's probably the biggest game in the history of the program."

"Every one does their job and that's what happens," said Bartlette. "We brought it for four quarters. We came out at the very beginning and our crowd was electrifying tonight."

"They beat us in every aspect of the game," said Bethel coach Eric Kurlle. "They're a great football team. They do things well. They're well coached and the kids just play hard."

The game marked another milestone for the Cougar program. No longer was Bothell the other Bethel. Pop Keeney had become the most feared high school football stadium in the state. And the Bothell win signaled that the Kingco conference was back. Over the next 7 seasons no less than nine Kingco teams would participate in the state championship game. Those in the stands and on fence will remember that it all started that cold November night.



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1. **XXX**

The countdown continues and this week we reveal the 4th, 3rd and 2nd most memorable games of the decade. Two of the toughest road wins of the decade and the most satisfying win of the 2009 season.

#4 October 12, 2007: Bothell at Eastlake

Why it was important: This was the most anticipated 4A regular season game of the 2007 season as the state's number 2 ranked team met number 3. Many said it would be a preview of the 4A state championship. Eastlake was hosting the team that had knocked them out of the title in the previous season. And their fans were determined to provide the most hostile environment the Cougars had faced. The win at East-

lake proved that the Cougars could go on the road and survive a tough matchup. That knowledge would prove invaluable six weeks later in Spokane.

Former Cougar running back Luke Jones was mad. His Cougars were trailing Eastlake in the most important game of the year. They were throwing away the Kingco championship and he had to do something about it. With 7:10 left in the third quarter, Eastlake's Tanner Nilson had just made an acrobatic catch in the end zone for a 25-yard touchdown that put the Wolves ahead 13-3.

For the first time this season, second-ranked Bothell found itself behind in a game. Jones ran up and down the sideline imploring his former teammates to play harder. He was particularly animated with the kickoff return team following Nilson's touchdown. They got the message. On the ensuing kickoff, current Central Wildcat Cory Burk burst up the middle through the wedge and had to avoid only one tackler kicker Justin Lewis, whom he hurdled, before coasting into the end zone for a 97-yard return. Burk's fourth return touchdown of the season immediately cut Eastlake's lead back to three.

Coach Bainter later remarked, "I think that probably was the biggest play of the game."

With the momentum shift the defense stiffened and when the Cougars got the ball back, current Oregon State punter Johnny Hekker booted his second field goal to tie the score at 13 with 8:35 left.

On the ensuing possession, Ben Moschel stepped in front of a Ryan Robertson pass at the Bothell 37 to give the Cougars the ball. Bothell ground the clock and on third and one at the Bothell 46 yard line, Hekker lofted a 54 yard catch and run to tight end Craig Monson. As they had done most of the night, the Wolves chose to blitz on third down leaving Monson wide open in the secondary. Monson's score capped a 16 point run with less than five minutes left in the game.

To preserve the victory, Bothell stopped Eastlake on fourth-and-one at midfield with about three minutes to go. The Cougars' Trey Burwick broke through the line to tackle Eastlake's Taylor Lappano for a 1-yard loss, the first of Lappano's 15 second-half carries to go for a loss.

With the win the Cougars moved to 7-0 with two weeks left in the season. It ensured their fourth Kingco 4A title in six seasons, and a trip back to the state finals.

#3 November 24, 2007: Bothell at Ferris

Why it was important: The two top ranked teams in the state met in what most thought to be the state finals. With frigid temperatures and snow late the Cougars battled the elements and the Saxons to make a second straight trip to the finals in Tacoma.

The snow had begun to fall just as Ferris was starting their final drive. Bothell had just taken a 14-7 lead with less than 3 minutes left in the game. The #2 ranked Ferris Saxons would have to drive 77 yards to tie the score. The drive would be 20 plays long. Ferris converted three fourth downs in the drive including one at the Bothell three. Then on first-and-goal at the Bothell 2, the Cougars were called for pass interference, moving the ball inside the 1.

On the very next play the snap squirted out of Ferris quarterback Jeff Minnerly's hands, caromed off his right thigh and hit the turf directly in front of Bothell linebacker Rami Salha. Salha jumped on it first, then teammate Robby Storm jumped on him to protect him from any prying Ferris hands. It was Minnerly's only fumble of the season. And it cleared the Cougar's path to the Tacoma Dome.

The two teams had slugged it out for 45 minutes before that final drive. Taking the opening kickoff, the Cougars were nearly flawless, driving 75 yards to secure a six yard Jon Kirchner touchdown. But after that, the next seven Cougar drives ended with two lost fumbles, four punts and an interception, which led to the Saxon's only score.

The high powered Ferris offense was frustrated as well. Bothell's defensive scheme kept Minnerly and Karstetter in check most of afternoon. Ferris managed 197 yards with 76 coming on the last drive.

With the win the Cougars would travel to Tacoma for a second straight appearance in the state championship game and a record setting thirteen wins on the season.

#2 October 29, 2009: Skyline at Bothell

Why it was important: The two best teams in the state met at Pop Keeney in 2009. Bothell had never beaten a Skyline team in three tries. The prize was not only the Kingco title but home field through the first three rounds of the playoffs.

For a second year in a row the Bothell-Skyline matchup for the Kingco title game proved to be everything a fan could ask for. Twelve months earlier Skyline had secured the 2008 Kingco

championship on a late fourth quarter drive. One year later it was Bothell driving to secure the final score. With a 1:54 left on the clock the Cougars were 5 yards away from taking the lead. And fans were wondering if the Cougars would get the job done.

From the opening kickoff to this point the game had so many twists and turns that fans on both sides were on the edge of their seats. Bothell got the scoring started on their second possession. Luke Proulx took a screen pass down the Skyline sidelines for 70 yards and the Cougars went on top 7-0. For the next several minutes the teams traded punts. And when Jake Heaps fumbled a snap deep in Skyline territory, Bothell capitalized on a Mitch Muller to Michael Hartvigson TD pass. Bothell was up early 13-0. Late in the half Heaps found Kasen Williams for 13-7 half-time margin.

Bothell forced a fumble on the 2nd half kickoff and the Cougars set up shop at the Skyline 20. But unfortunately the drive ended on a fumbled snap at the Skyline 3. And when Skyline drove for their second TD, many wondered if the fumbled exchange at the three would prove fatal.

But on the opening play of the fourth quarter Bothell regained the lead at 19-14 when Muller found John Sullivan on a 46 yard deep post route behind the Spartan defenders. Heaps would lead Skyline downfield to retake the lead at 20-19. With only a few minutes on the clock, Muller would engineer a game winning drive that began on the Bothell 33. On second down he hit Hartvigson for quick slant to the Bothell 44. Then on third and seventeen, he hit Proulx down the sideline for a sixteen yard gain. Following a Ryan Loutsis fourth down conversion, he hit Sullivan again. The play not only gave the Cougars a first down but, following a late hit by Skyline Safety Evan Zegar, it moved the ball to the Spartan 8.

And now two plays later, Luke Proulx was aligned behind Muller at the Spartan 5. When he bounced it outside to score his first thought was, "Oh boy, this is Skyline, they have a minute on the clock, we better get a stop."

With 1:54 left on the clock Bothell's D took over and pushed Skyline back. The drive ended with a deflection of Jake Heap's last pass at Pop Keeney.

It was the first win for a Bothell team over Skyline in four tries. And it brought a fifth Kingco title in the last eight years. It also propelled the Cougs back into the playoffs and an eventual rematch with the Spartans at the Tacoma Dome.



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2. 2009 Skyline "The King is Dead ... Long Live the King"
1. 2006 Pasco "Working Overtime"

Today is the final installment of our "Top Ten Games of the Decade". And what a decade it has been. From the opening win over Woodinville in 2000 ... to the final play of the 2009 season in the Tacoma Dome. Bothell's incredible journey from the back of the pack has been memorable indeed. If you have been following along, then you probably already know which game has been voted top for the decade. But before we take a look at that game, it might be good to talk about a few memorable games that did not make our list beginning with the 2002 road trip to Lake Stevens....

October 3, 2002: Bothell at Lake Stevens

The Vikings were the power in Wesco and had a state best 26-game home winning streak on the line. It was a tough test for a young Cougar squad that was still trying to establish an

identity. When the Cougs returned home from Lake Stevens they had notched their first shutout of the season and held the Vikings to only 121 total yards of offense. Coach Bainter would later remark that this game was a key building block for the Cougars' first Kingco title.

November 16, 2007: Oak Harbor at Bothell

Eleven months earlier, the Wildcats had beaten Bothell in Tacoma for the State Title, 21-14. Now in a Quarterfinal matchup the following season, Oak Harbor would venture into the "friendly" confines of Pop Keeney. An estimated crowd of 7500 witnessed a dominant 42-14 victory by the Cougs. Junior Tailback, Patrick Ottorbeck, racked up 138 yards in 13 carries in only two quarters of work as the Cougars knocked the 4th ranked Wildcats out of the playoffs. The following week Bothell traveled to Spokane for an epic matchup between the state's top two teams.

November 24, 2006: Bothell vs Edmonds

Following an exhausting, epic nine-overtime win against Pasco, everyone was asking ... "what do the Bothell Cougars have left in the tank"? The answer was plenty, as the Cougars beat second ranked Edmonds-Woodway 28-14 to advance to their first State Title game. With Edmonds filling the box to stop the run game, Senior quarterback Cody Atkinson finished with 14-20 for 202 yards and two touchdowns. The Cougars built a solid 21-0 lead at halftime and never looked back.

October 31, 2002: Bothell vs Inglemoor

Around here, they call it the Spaghetti Bowl. The Air Force recognizes it as one of the country's "Great American Rivalries" in football. But in 2002, Bothell / Inglemoor was much more than that. It was 48 minutes that dissolved the cumulative frustration of 50 seasons of mostly losing football. It gave the 2002 Cougars the distinction of being the first Bothell team in over 50 years to win eight regular-season games. It marked Coach Bainter's first victory in three tries against Inglemoor and earned the Cougars just their second win in 13 Spaghetti Bowls. It secured Bothell's first ever Kingco title in football. But more important, it seemed to affirm that Bothell was a program on the rise. In the 90's Inglemoor had been the dominant dog in Kingco. But the Kingco landscape would be forever changed after that Halloween night in 2002. Since that game, Bothell has won eight straight Spaghetti Bowls and 5 Kingco titles.

October 16, 2003: Bothell vs Woodinville

Back-to-Back. In 2000 it would have ridiculous to suggest that Bothell could win one Kingco title, let alone two in a row. But here they were. 48 minutes away from a second Kingco title in twelve months. And across the field was another Northshore foe. The Woodinville Falcons. Once again Bothell's defense was up to the task. When the horn sounded to end the game, Bothell was on top of the Kingco hill again with a 28-14 victory. It was also memorable for one of the more humorous incidents in the past ten seasons. Late in the game with Woodinville driving, the Falcon student body began to chant "We've got Tui" (in reference to their fabulous quarterback Matt Tuia-sosopo). As the drive died near the forty yard line the Bothell students responded with a chant of their own. "We've got Bainter".

So which game was voted best of the decade?

#1 November 18, 2006 Bothell vs Pasco

Why it was important: In the late 90's Pasco was the top program in the state. Each Thanksgiving, the Bulldogs were regular visitors to Tacoma. Hosting them in a quarterfinal game was going to be special. No one realized how special. Six hours later, when it was all over, a National record had been set and film of the game was running on ESPN. For Bothell it was the first time they advanced past the quarterfinals and on to the Tacoma Dome.

A high-school football playoff game of historic proportions finally ended in nine overtimes with Bothell fullback Luke Jones scoring on a 10-yard run to spark a wild celebration at Pop Keeney Stadium. Players, coaches and fans were all exhausted after a six-hour contest that was even closer than the score indicated. The nine overtimes tied a National record set in 1977. The previous Washington record was seven.

It was a rare Saturday game at Pop Keeney. And to accommodate the Pasco fans who had to drive over a treacherous mountain pass, it was the only daytime game played by the Cougars in decades. The conservatively played game was tied at 14 at the end of regulation. There were 17 punts, and both teams had one big offensive highlight in the second quarter.

For Pasco it was a 35-yard touchdown pass from Shayne Kelly to Justin Perez. Perez made an incredible adjustment at the last possible moment to snag the ball over his right shoulder

while tiptoeing.

From here the day's events turn surreal. In the first OT, both teams kicked field goals. In the second, Bothell went four-and-out, and Pasco fumbled. In the third, Bothell's defense stuffed Pasco twice from inside the 2. But the Cougars responded with a fumble of their own. It appeared as though neither team wanted the win. One thing was certain – both teams were as tight as could be. In the fourth and fifth periods, two more field goals. In the sixth overtime period, the game's turning point occurred. After Bothell failed to score, Kelly missed a chip-shot field goal. It was his first miss of the season.

Now with the lights on and darkness setting in, Kelly rebounded to hit Perez for a 10-yard TD. On Bothell's turn, Robert Schaefer scored from the 2 on fourth-and-goal. It was Schaefer's first significant run from scrimmage as other Bothell running backs were either injured or gassed. In the eighth, Bothell quarterback Cody Atkinson scrambled in from 10 yards when he could not find anyone open in the end zone. Kelly responded with a pass to Seth Halliday to tie the score again.

And in the ninth, after Kelly kicked another field goal to put his team up 40-37, Bothell got the ball, took a deep breath and called a fullback dive. Luke Jones took it in from ten yards out and the celebration began. Notable in the game was the clutch effort of Cougar Center, Connor Ridsen. Forced into action when Johnny Hekker went out with an injury the previous week, Ridsen was perfect in the overtime, hitting three field goals and two extra-points.

The win sent an emotionally drained Cougar squad on to Tacoma where they beat second-ranked Edmonds in the State Semi-final.