

Chippewa Valley wins Division 1 football championship with one-point victory over Clarkston

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Andre Chenault (5) of Chippewa Valley runs for a touchdown against Clarkston in the first quarter of the Division 1 state championship game at Ford Field.



Martice Bunting (1) of Chippewa Valley catches a touchdown pass from Tommy Schuster in the first quarter of the Division 1 championship game at Ford Field.

DETROIT — Perfect, but it wasn't easy.

Chippewa Valley watched its 14-point halftime lead nearly erased with 23 seconds left in the fourth quarter, but a stop by Michael Garwood on a 2-point conversion sealed the Big Reds' 31-30 win over the defending Division 1 state football champ, Clarkston, Saturday afternoon at Ford Field.

The Big Reds finished a perfect 14-0 to win their second state football title.

CV won the Division 2 state title in 2001.

The Big Reds were just the third county team to win a state title without suffering a loss all season. Dakota (2007) and Warren Woods (1978) were the other two.

CV scored on every offensive possession in the opening 24 minutes and added a 94-yard kickoff return for a score just before halftime to go in ahead 24-10.

The Wolves (11-3) had cut their deficit to seven with 41 seconds left in the second quarter, but David Ellis went 94 yards in a matter of 15 seconds to put the Big Reds back on top by 14 after Niko Kepi's third PAT of the first half.

Big Reds QB Tommy Schuster was perfect passing, connecting on all 13 attempts, two of which went for TDs, and 205 yards.

This year marked the first time two teams from Macomb County won state football titles in the same season.

De La Salle beat Muskegon Mona Shores 29-16 on Friday to win a second straight Division 2 state title.

This was also the second time a Macomb County team knocked off the defending state champs in the title game. Dakota was the other team to do so beating Rockford in 2006.

This was just the third time two county schools competed for state football championships in the same season.

In 2006, Dakota and DLS each played in championship games. The Cougars won and the Pilots lost.

In 2001, CV won the Division 2 title and Eisenhower lost in the Division 1 title game.

County teams have won nine state championships.

Clarkston beat West Bloomfield, 3-2, a year ago to win its third state championship in five seasons.