

Hanna shines in Shrine Bowl

Written by Mike Condon

Saturday, 27 July 2013 21:05 - Last Updated Saturday, 27 July 2013 22:01



CEDAR FALLS - One quarterback had a day he will always remember. Another had one he would like to forget.

But for both Cedar Rapids Prairie's Jace Hanna and Cedar Rapids Xavier's Reggie Schulte, Saturday's 41st edition of the Shrine Bowl at the UNI-Dome was put in the proper perspective as just one part of a special week.

Hanna was likely playing football for the final time. He completed a pair of touchdown passes of 32 yards each to West Des Moines Valley's Clint Boffeli as the South rolled to a 28-0 win over the North before an estimate crowd of 3,500 at the UNI-Dome.

On the other side of the field, it wasn't the best of days for Schulte. He was under constant pressure from a swarming South defense and ended up throwing five interceptions, including one that was returned for a touchdown. He completed just 9-of-25 passes for 91 yards.

Both quarterbacks were quick to speak first of the Shrine experience.

"I've learned to not take anything for granted," said Hanna, who will play college basketball at Upper Iowa. "This is so much for the kids and we were messing around with them on Friday and seeing how much we impacted them and how much we made them smile was just a great experience."

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Even though Schulte, who is continuing his career this fall as a walk-on at UNI, was disappointed and a bit bloodied after the game, he said the experience of Shrine week was one he would always treasure.



"I obviously didn't play the best today," he said. "The week really put it in perspective. There are kids who have it a lot worse off than me having a bad football game. There are kids who don't get an opportunity to play on their own. You can't hang your head too much after seeing the kids we saw this week."

Hanna, who played the second and fourth quarters, had a pair of beautiful scoring tosses to Boffeli, who was named the MVP for the South. The former Prairie QB completed 5-of-7 passes for 88 yards. He said he felt comfortable, especially coming in with his team already up 7-0.

"It made it a little easier for sure," Hanna said. "Our coaches had a good plan and (the North players) were trash talking us a little bit early in the week. It was a fun game for sure."

Both sides suffered turnovers, but it was the North who was hurt the most. Unofficially, they had 10 total turnovers and never really threatened the South end zone, coming up short on a pair of long field goal attempts.

Schulte was pressed into extra service when the North's other quarterback, Brandon Johnson of Eagle Grove, suffered an ankle injury midway through the second quarter. The North was down just 14-0 at half, but just a few plays after the break, Schulte was picked off by Iowa City West's Ezra Reiners, who took it 40 yards for the score.

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Linn-Mar's Justin Green, who played the first and third quarters in the defensive line, felt Schulte's pain.

"He's an emotional guy and I know how hard he plays," Green said of his longtime rival. "He's a nice guy and he's one of the greatest guys I met here and I really felt for him today. Nobody wanted to win more than he did."

Green's football career ended with Saturday's game. He will be attending UNI, but will not be playing football.

"After this week, it really makes you think about it because I had such a great time," he said. "But between injuries and school, I'm not sure if I could have handled it all."

Marion's Ethan Herren had one catch for 15 yards and a tackle on special teams.

"Meeting all these guys from eight-man to 4A, the talent is everywhere," he said. "It was great to meet all these guys. The outcome wasn't the greatest but these are friendships you will have forever."

Herren gets eight days off before he has to report to Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge.

"I'm going to go home and rest up a little before heading up there," he said.

Kennedy's Alex Hillyer had a catch for 31 yards. His time off consists of Sunday. On Monday, he reports to camp at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs.

"Even though we lost today, our coach (Mike Dirksen of Mason City Newman) said it didn't

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define who we are," Hillyer said. "I think he's right. There's a bunch of great kids who were here and that's what this week was all about."

SOUTH 28, NORTH 0

North 0 0 0 0 - 0

South 7 7 7 7 - 28

South - Clint Boffeli (WDM Valley) 9 pass from Randy Schmidt (North Scott), (Jordan Sexton, Ames kick)

South - Boffeli 32 pass from Jace Hanna (Prairie) (Sexton kick)

South - Ezra Reiners (I.C. West) 40 interception return (Sexton kick)

South - Boffeli 32 pass from Hanna (Sexton kick)

Unofficial stats for Metro Area players

North:

Reggie Schulte (Xavier): Passing: 9-25-5-91; Rushing: 6-(minus 19)

Ethan Herren (Marion): Receiving: 1-15, Special teams:1 tackle

Alex Hillyer (Kennedy): Receiving: 1-31

Justin Green (Linn-Mar): Defense: 0 tackles

South:

Jace Hanna (Prairie) Passing: 5-7-0-88, Rushing: 5-0