

Mountain View's defense dominates Sherwood in a 23-0 victory in the Class 5A state playoffs



Sherwood's Kole Krieger, left, wraps up Mountain View's Pat Cashman during a second-round Class 5A state playoff game on Friday night. *(Photo by Pete Erickson/The Bulletin)*

"'Big and fast' Cougs roll to win "

By [Mark Morical](#) / *The Bulletin*

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Ash Gibson said his Mountain View Cougars had been labeled as "big and slow" on internet postings by Sherwood fans.

"We decided to come out and say, 'We're big and FAST,' and we did," Gibson said.

The Mountain View defense was certainly big and fast on Friday night, as the Cougars easily defeated the Bowmen 23-0 in a second-round game of the Class 5A state football playoffs at Mountain View High School.

The Cougars advance to host Jefferson of Portland, the No. 1 team from the Portland Interscholastic League, in a quarterfinal game next week. Jefferson defeated Klamath Union 38-7 on Friday night.

Gibson rushed for 82 yards and three touchdowns, and wide receiver Pat Cashman had four receptions for 90 yards as Mountain View dominated nearly every aspect of the game against Sherwood, the No. 2 team from the Northwest Oregon Conference.

The Cougars, the No. 1 team from the Intermountain Conference, held the Bowmen to just 18 yards in the first half as Mountain View cruised to a 16-0 halftime lead.

“Speed and intensity,” said Gibson, a middle linebacker on defense. “All it takes is that one hit, that one hit on defense and we get fired up. The defense kept pounding and pounding (Sherwood), and making them work for every single yard. It just wore down their team and their morale.”

Undefeated and second-ranked Mountain View (10-0 overall) scored its first touchdown on an 11-yard run around the left side by Gibson early in the first quarter.

Brian Cashman added a 27-yard field goal to give the Cougars a 10-0 lead early in the second quarter.

A crucial turning point in the game came late in the first half, when Mountain View sustained a long drive to the Sherwood 6-yard line. Quarterback Scott Plants had a pass intercepted by the Bowmen’s Kole Krieger and returned 95 yards for an apparent touchdown, but pass interference was called on Sherwood.

The Cougars would score two plays later on a one-yard run by Gibson to take a 16-0 lead.

“If we get the interception there, it’s 10-7,” said Sherwood coach Wes Montgomery, who said he was upset with the officiating. “That’s a 14-point swing ... ridiculous. Every time we had a chance to get momentum, calls went against us. They’re a good football team, but you can only overcome so much against great teams.”

Sixth-ranked Sherwood (8-3 overall) was struck with more adversity with 30 seconds left in the first half, when starting quarterback Ian Donovan was injured. He was sidelined with a concussion, according to Montgomery, for the entire second half.

The Cougars added their final touchdown early in the fourth quarter on a five-yard run by Gibson, who powered over defenders into the end zone for a 23-0 Mountain View lead.

Later in the quarter, the Cougars came up with two interceptions — one by Pat Cashman and one by Josh Young — off passes by second-string quarterback Brayde Gough to seal the victory.

“We have a great defense and we depend on them a lot,” said Mountain View coach John Nehl. “We’ve been pretty good (on defense) all year long. We’ve just been real confident. Our coaches do a great job of preparing the defense. We watch a lot of film.”

Nehl also pointed out the diversity of his team's offense, which was able to gain yards in the air when Sherwood keyed on Gibson, the IMC's most valuable player who has averaged nearly 200 yards per game.

Plants was five of nine passing for 109 yards.

"(Sherwood) did a great job on Gibson and that opened it up for somebody else," Nehl said.

Mountain View appeared to receive a tough draw into the playoffs despite defeating Bend High two weeks ago to win the IMC. Sherwood was ranked third behind the Cougars in Class 5A most of the year before losing to Glencoe in the final week of the regular season to finish second in the Northwest Oregon Conference.

The Bowmen came into Friday night's game having allowed just 97 points, the second-best mark in 5A.

But on Friday, it was the Mountain View defense that made the difference.

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