This week was our game against Gresham High School and after our sloppy start against Reynolds, it was time for us to bounce back and get a good win. Gresham is a team with really good players, but we were ready for the challenge.

Our week of practice was solid leading up to the game. The only different thing about that week; everything was a day earlier because the game was on Thursday. We usually watch film on Sundays, but for this specific week, we started to practice on Sunday. Sunday’s practice was not fun for anyone because of our second-day soreness from the previous game.

During the warm ups for our game, I kept getting some kind of ash in my eyes and I choked on it a few times. It looked like white ash was falling to the ground from a big forest fire or something. “Why would there be ash without any fires?” I asked myself. It turned out to be all the whiteflies that fly all over Portland.

We started the game on defense. After a great defensive stop, Gresham had to go three and out. On our first offensive drive, we drove down and Jordan Stevens ran it in for a score. Our defense had yet another great defensive stand to force Gresham to punt again.

It was not until the second quarter that we scored again on an 88 yard touchdown pass by DeAndre Smith. When I caught the pass from DeAndre, I thought I was immediately going to get tackled by the cornerback.

When I turned to look, I noticed that the cornerback was all the way across the field! I turned my body and ran as fast as I could with nobody in front of me. The only guy that had a chance to catch me was the Gresham safety who had a really good angle on me. As I started running, he was getting closer and closer. When I got to about the 30 yard line, he started to get winded and slow down. After I ran past him, there were 30 yards left with nobody in front of me.

As I crossed the goal line, I noticed my dad was waving at me while he was standing in line to get a hot dog for my little sister.

The announcer was yelling my name over the intercom while our Central Catholic section was going crazy. These sounds are the best things about high school football - there is no better feeling than hearing the crowd cheering because of something you did, whether it’s a touchdown, tackle or an interception.

Our defense played an outstanding first half to help us have a lead of 21-0 at halftime. In the locker room, our energy was up and we knew that we all came ready to play. Our main focus during halftime was to keep our energy up throughout the whole game. Our defensive scheme was to make sure that Gresham would have no chance to come back in the second half.

We got the ball at the start of the second half and immediately went to work. This was our chance to press on the gas and grab a hold of this game. On the second play of the third quarter, we scored on a 52 yard touchdown run. After about three minutes into the second half, we started our second string players. They too, did really well on offense and defense. I am hoping that our team can play this well for the rest of the season. I am really glad with our efforts and I know we will be ready for Barlow next week. Go Rams, Go Ducks and God Bless.