

# Vikings secure

## playoff berth

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GENEVA — Geneva quarterback Shaun Ratay threw a 67-yard touchdown pass to wideout Mike Isaacson on the first play from scrimmage Friday night.

The Vikings never looked back, defeating Sycamore, 33-7.

"Shaun throws a heck of a long ball," Geneva coach Rob Wicinski said.

The long pass was set up to be the first play of the game earlier in the week.

"We knew that was going to be our first play," Isaacson said. "We executed it well."

With the win, Geneva improved to 4-1 in the Suburban Prairie North and 6-3 overall. The Vikings also officially qualified for the playoffs for the second consecutive season.

Running back Nick Herrera rushed 14 times for 93 yards, which pushed him past the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the season. The senior ended the regular season with 1,012 yards on the ground.

"We just throw games on his back," Wicinski said. "He's been an outstanding runner for three years."

Herrera was excited about the accomplishment.

"That was my goal coming into today's game, other than the win," he said.

Geneva went up 10-0 in the first quarter after a 36-yard field goal by Chris Koza.

Sycamore mounted its only successful drive in the second quarter, going 81 yards in 12 plays. Running back Adam Church, who had 126 yards rushing, ran it in from 4 yards out.

The Vikings scored just before the half when Ratay and Isaacson hooked up again, this time for 22 yards. It put Geneva up 17-7 at the break. The three-play drive started on the Geneva 35-yard line and included a 20-yard run on first down by Herrera.

Herrera broke one for 46 yards to score a touchdown with 3:51 to play in the third. It came three plays after Pat Schiller intercepted a Sycamore pass over the middle at the Geneva 35-yard line. The defense had three interceptions.

Matt Skaar scored from 4 yards out for the Vikings' final touchdown of the game with 5:45 to play in the fourth. It was setup by a 25-yard pass completion from Ratay to Isaacson that got them a first down at the Spartans 9-yard line. Ratay had to thread the needle to complete the pass through two Sycamore defenders.

"The play was Shaun but (Isaacson) had to finish it," Wicinski said. "They've got a good chemistry together."