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# Inspired Geneva captures thriller

## QB, running back credit help from late friend for win

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Geneva had a little extra help in its thrilling 24-21 home victory over Kaneland in front of approximately 5,900 fans Friday.

Quarterback Shaun Ratay and running back Christopher Modjeski credited a little help from a friend in the victory that gave Geneva (8-0, 6-0) a share of the Western Sun Conference title.

"This season is for him," Ratay said of friend Dustin Villerreal, a Geneva student who died of a heart ailment last spring. "He's with us the entire way. Me and 'Mojo' asked him for a play down there [on the field], and he gave it to us."

Mike Mayszak intercepted a Boone Thorgesen pass with 1 minute 19 seconds left to end Kaneland's chances.

Kaneland's aerial circus came to town, but Geneva held its ground. Modjeski carried the ball 27 times for 161 yards and two touchdowns.

"I got my boy up there, Dustin, he got me my plays," said the senior. "It's a very emotional game because of him. He helped us a lot."

Geneva stayed with the run after a successful start on the ground. "We just go with the flow," Modjeski said. "I think we're a well-balanced team."

Ratay finished 10-for-18 passing for 110 yards and ran the ball eight times for 23 yards, including a 13-yard touchdown.

Geneva's biggest lift came from kicker Brian Maurovich. The senior's 25-yard, third-quarter field goal turned out to be the game-winner and gave the Vikings a 24-7 lead. While punting, Maurovich corraled several high snaps, then stepped between rushers to get the ball away.

Thorgesen was 20-for-42 for 372 yards and three touchdowns but threw three interceptions. Casey Crosby was his favorite target, grabbing eight passes for 193 yards and a touchdown for the Knights (7-1, 5-1).

Kaneland struck quickly in the fourth quarter. Crosby caught a 5-yard TD pass with 7:06 to play.

After an onside-kick recovery, Kaneland's Jamie Snyder caught a 49-yard pass with 6:53 left.

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