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## This one's huge

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By [BILL KINDT](#) Staff writer

GENEVA -- It might be the biggest high school football game in the state this weekend.

It most definitely is the biggest game in the area.

It's one itching for a Hollywood script writer. When Kaneland visits Geneva at 7:30 p.m. today, bragging rights isn't the only thing at stake even though the two schools are but a stone's throw away.

One of the 7-0 unbeatens will leave Burgess Field with a firm grasp on the first-ever Western Sun Conference championship. And the winner is certain to get a leg up in both the playoff and state rankings.

"Geneva is going to be the game of the year for us," said Kaneland wide receiver Casey Crosby. "Geneva has a great team, and I'm sure everybody knows that. We want to prove we're a great team, too."

Both teams feature powerful offenses directed by veteran senior quarterbacks. Geneva has outscored its opponents 276-43 while Kaneland owns a 293-143 margin.

The only difference in the offenses is how they go about putting touchdowns on the board.

Kaneland loves to put the ball in the air. Quarterback Boone Thorgesen has already thrown for 2,001 yards and 23 touchdowns, and he has five outstanding receivers with Crosby leading the way with 32 receptions for 523 yards and eight TDs.

Interestingly, the Knights ran for 205 yards in a 49-0 rout of DeKalb a week ago. Crosby, incidentally, scored touchdowns on an 89-yard kickoff return, 2-yard run and 13-yard pass from Thorgesen.

"I've got some ideas what we're going to do (defensively) against Kaneland," said Geneva head coach Rob Wicinski. "Kaneland is a team that is five-wide and throws all over the field."

Conversely, Geneva's offense is built on balance. The Vikings have a strong offensive line, which has paved the way for senior running back Chris Modjeski to rush for 840 yards and seven touchdowns.

But the Knights can't afford to sell out defensively on stopping the run. Quarterback Shaun Ratay has thrown for 1,155 yards and 23 touchdowns and he's only been intercepted twice in 97 attempts.

Kaneland's weakness early in the season was a leaky defense. The Knights allowed 103 points, including 51 in a victory over Rochelle in Week 3, in their first three games. But adjustments were made and Kaneland has allowed just 40 points in its last four games.

Geneva's defense has been rock-solid all year with huge (6-0, 270) sophomore Brennan Quinn being the anchor at middle linebacker. The Vikings have given up just 43 points and registered two shutouts.

Both teams are used to playing in big games since they've been under the microscope since the season openers.

"It's about the fifth big game we've had this year in this conference," said Kaneland coach Joe Thorgesen. "It's unbelievable. We're happy to be in the position we are. Geneva is a great football team and we hope we can give them a game."

The winner will be guaranteed at least a share of the conference championship. Batavia, with a lone loss to Kaneland, is still in the mix, and the Vikings have to face Bulldogs at Burgess Field on Oct. 20.

That's next week's big game.

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