

NV-HV rivalry featured plenty of excitement, drama

By Jeff Duewel and Ben Maki
of the Daily Courier

Forty years is a long time. Though for some, 1977 may feel like yesterday.

That's when North Valley High and Hidden Valley High both opened their doors for the first time.

The two teams have met 36 times. North Valley holds a 22-14 lead in the series as the Knights have won the last six meetings.

Here's how those have gone down, including 1991 and 1992 when the teams played twice each season.

1977 — HV 10, NV 0. In a cold rain, Hidden Valley's Kevin Bishop kicked a 35-yard field goal, and Ron Wilson scored on a 3-yard run. Vince Randall spearheaded the defense, recovering a fumble by NV quarterback Rob Leenknecht, one of five Knight turnovers.

1978 — NV 32, HV 26 (2OT). In the second period of Kansas Plan overtime, NV's John Stehnik ran five yards for a TD, then the Knights held the Mustangs, sacking quarterback Kelly Richardson to end the game.

Richardson earlier hit Brian Rose for a TD pass with one minute left, then passed to Wilson for the 2-point conversion to send it to overtime. Wilson had four touchdowns.

NV's Brian Gaffney returned a kickoff 90 yards for a TD, and NV's Tim Rodolf caught a 75-yard TD pass from Leenknecht.

The Mustangs recovered from an 0-2 start to reach the state title game before losing to Gladstone.

1979 — HV 41, NV 6. This was easily the most lopsided game in the rivalry until 1999 as Hidden Valley stacked up a 27-0 lead after one quarter and rolled in its first game in the Class AAA ranks. Mustang coach Mike Mitchell and Knight coach Bob Beers were roommates, so that may have kept the score down some.

HV's Richardson only completed four passes, but two were for touchdowns to Todd Collins. HV's Dave Jacobs rushed for 108 yards.

1980 — HV 22, NV 12. Collins ran for a pair of touchdowns for Hidden Valley, in the season-opener for both schools.

Collins also threw a touchdown pass to account for each Hidden Valley score.

Aaron Daywitt completed 14-of-29 passes for 154 and two touchdowns, but he also threw four interceptions.

1983 — NV 21, HV 0. NV's Tim Stickler scored on a reverse and caught a 31-yard TD pass from Greg Nygren and Todd Willaman booted three extra points for North Valley. Hidden Valley had nine penalties for 89 yards.



JIM KROIS/Daily Courier, 2007

Mustang Saxon Gotfried tries sweep around North Valley's Brendon Reyes-Johnson during their game when the teams played in 2007. Hidden Valley won the game 35-21.

1984 — HV 34, NV 14. This one was memorable for several reasons. It featured first-year head coaches, HV's Jim Figoni and the Knights' Roger Freeborn.

And it turned out to be the only loss of the year for North Valley, which won the 1984 state AA title.

The Mustang defense, led by linemen Tyler Burrell and Dave Van Arsdall and linebacker Chad Waterman, held North Valley to 36 yards rushing and picked off three Nygren passes.

The Knights went on to beat Skyline rival Phoenix 6-0 for the state title, finishing 12-1, the only state football title won by either school.

1989 — HV 17, NV 7. Hidden Valley won

the renewal of the rivalry after a four-year hiatus, in its first season back in the Skyline since the 1978 season.

Eric Patton, Chad Hurd, John Reyes and Jarod Love combined for 235 yards rushing, and Love had two TDs and a field goal. NV's Eric Bettinger had a 43-yard TD run.

1990 — HV 26, NV 12. Mustang sophomore Chris Jostad completed 8-of-9 passes for 178 yards and two touchdowns, as the Mustangs won their second straight over the Knights under coach Mike Porzio.

Mark Vidlak, another sophomore, caught a 60-yard TD pass and had three catches for 107 yards.

NV running back John Erkeneff had 98 yards rushing and 88 yards receiving.

1991 — NV 14, HV 12. The next two seasons the two teams would play each other twice, because Lakeview, Rogue River and Illinois Valley took a two-year break from the Skyline.

The Knights' Luke Farmer returned an interception 38 yards for a score and blocked a punt, and Hidden Valley couldn't recover despite two TD passes from Jostad to Josh Shannon.

Erin Appling ran for 115 yards for the Knights.

NV 21, HV 12. Freshman Wade Comford ran for three touchdowns and 89 yards, and defensive back Josh Rohlfing returned a fumble 57 yards to set up a score.

1992 — NV 21, HV 8. Joel Allen rushed

for 207 yards and two touchdowns for the Knights, who picked off five Mustang passes.

Jamie Diamond caught a 43-yard TD pass from Jostad for HV's only score.

NV 49, HV 35. This was the highest-scoring game in rivalry history and was damaging for playoff hopeful Hidden Valley, which rallied from a 28-7 deficit.

Vidlak caught three TD passes from Jostad, including a 65-yarder to tie the game 35-all, and finished with six catches for 165 yards, but Appling scored two more TD runs to ice it.

The Knights won their first Skyline title since 1987.

1993 — NV 34, HV 7. North Valley won its fifth straight in the rivalry as Rob Freeman returned two interceptions for touchdowns and Tim Dean caught a 32-yard TD pass from Robert Taylor.

Freeman, the Skyline's offensive player of the year, also caught a TD pass and John Whetstone blocked a field goal attempt.

1994 — HV 27, NV 6. Hidden Valley ended a five-game losing streak in the rivalry, taking advantage of seven Knight turnovers.

Mustang linebacker Joel Orozco had two sacks and numerous tackles, Kaleo Lopez had two TD runs, and Jay Dodson returned a fumble 37 yards for a score.

Lopez rushed for 105 yards, Ryan Downs caught a TD pass and Lance Clauson intercepted two passes.

Hidden Valley earning its first state playoff berth since 1979.

1995 — NV 32, HV 7*. This game comes with an asterisk, because though North Valley won on the field, Hidden Valley gets the win in the record book. The Knights forfeited four league games, including this one, for using an ineligible player.

North Valley's Zach Jarrett rushed for 236 yards and three touchdowns, threw a TD pass, intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble in a great effort.

Hidden Valley's Jason Rosier ran for 92 yards and his 16th TD of the year.

1996 — NV 10, HV 7. Nathon Wheelock kicked the game-winning field goal with 18 seconds left, after the Knights drove 78 yards in the final minute of play to pull it out.

North Valley's Joe Lawless had six catches and a touchdown, and Hidden Valley's Aaron Jiron rushed for 67 yards and his team's only score.

NV's Scott Stickler passed for 154 yards and a touchdown.

1997 — HV 21, NV 20. It was a battle of top-five teams.

They met with the Skyline Conference title on the line. North Valley went for two and missed in the first quarter. Hidden Valley went for two and made it in the fourth quarter after having an extra point blocked in the third quarter.

Tim Orr ran for 127 yards on 20 carries for Hidden Valley, including picking up 75 yards on the game-winning drive.

Brad Kudlac led the Knights with 22 carries for 106 yards and a touchdown as well as four catches for 71 yards and a score. Tim Stickler threw for 187 yards.

1998 — HV 12, NV 0. The Mustangs gave Tim Orr the ball time after time, as he ran for 190 yards and a touchdown on 32 carries. Quarterback Matt Kennedy ran in the other one.

North Valley was held to 104 total yards,

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