

HPHS takes charge

Riley's three TDs too much for Weaver

By MIKE DOWNS
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As Hartford Public's Marvin Riley walked along the line for the final handshake with members of Weaver's football team Thursday, he came to the cheerleaders. Some gave him fake glares. Others lightly kicked his shins. They teased him because he carried the MVP trophy.

Riley's four interceptions, three touchdowns and breaking of the HPHS single-season rushing record helped Hartford Public to a 34-10 victory in the 67th Thanksgiving Day meeting of the two schools. The Owls lead the series 36-28-3 and have won two in a row.

As Riley neared the end of the line, Weaver wide receiver Chris Brown came back to meet him again and congratulate him. The two had met twice on the basketball court last season, and Brown and Weaver won both times.

"I knew I had to get you out there," Riley said. "Basketball might be your school's sport, but football is ours."

"I know how they felt [last year]," Brown said. "It hurts. But we have to get over it."

And now Riley and the Owls (7-4) know what it's like to win a City Series game. They lost their first last week to Bulkeley but were never in doubt against Weaver (0-10-1).

Riley caught a 33-yard pass on the Owls' second possession for a first-and-goal at the 10-yard line, then made two 5-yard runs for Hartford's first touchdown. He scored again on the Owls' next possession on a 1-yard run. Then, on the Beavers' ensuing possession, Charles Williams intercepted a pass by Weaver quarterback Steve James and returned it 36 yards for a touchdown.

Hartford Public led 22-0 at half-time. Then, with 8 minutes, 51 sec-



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■ Hartford Public's Greg Bartlett is brought down by a Weaver player in the second half of HPHS's 34-10 victory.

onds left in the third quarter, Tyrone Richardson scored on a 22-yard reverse, and with 2:26 left, Riley scored on a 19-yard run.

That run broke the single-season rushing record set last year by Aaron Fisher, who had 1,364 yards in 10 games. Riley, who missed one game in this season's 11-game schedule because of injury, gained 122 yards.

Coach Jack LaPlante called for him to get the ball one more time in the fourth quarter — a senior send-off — and Riley gained 9 yards to finish with 1,377.

Riley gave credit to his line, and LaPlante agreed, saying how Bobby

Alvarado, Victor Jimenez, Shawn Mierez and Sewell Minto had learned new blocking schemes during the season, double-teaming the points of attack.

LaPlante said he had never been part of a more one-sided Thanksgiving Day game, and he didn't like it.

"I don't enjoy lopsided games," he said. "Being in front or being in back."

But, he added about the Weaver players, "Any kid who stays with the team when the team doesn't win a game is a special person. That kid's a winner."