

Salmen slips past Karr for overtime win

SALMEN 25 • KARR 24

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A missed extra-point attempt almost ended Salmen's season. Moments later, a missed extra-point attempt helped save it.

The Spartans took a 25-24 overtime victory over Karr in a Class 4A quarterfinals state playoff game Friday at Hoss Memtsas Stadium.

Salmen trailed 18-3 entering the fourth quarter but stormed back to tie the score with less than a minute remaining in regulation. All that stood between Salmen and a victory was an extra point attempt. But the Spartans' usually reliable kicker, Chris Gulino, missed the attempt, sending the game into overtime.

Karr took the lead in overtime on 1-yard run by quarterback Munchie Legaux, but Tollette George's extra-point attempt was blocked. Salmen answered with a

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Salmen's Errol Scott runs for a gain against Karr during the second quarter. Scott was involved in a key controversial play late in the game.

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Salmen edges Karr in overtime

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1-yard quarterback keeper by Matt Lipham. Gulino redeemed himself by converting the extra point and giving the Spartans the victory.

Salmen (10-2) advances to the 4A semifinals, where it will face Franklinton.

Eight of the Spartans' nine possessions in regulation reached Cougars' territory. Despite the field position, Salmen had only three points in the first three quarters.

Salmen's defense scored the Spartans' first touchdown early in the fourth quarter when T.J. Price returned a fumble by Joshua Perry 8 yards.

The game took a bizarre turn

midway through the quarter. Salmen drove to Karr's 30-yard line, when Errol Scott caught a pass from Lipham, then lost a fumble. The officials had thrown a flag and initially called roughing the passer against Karr, then waved off the penalty. Then, with Karr's offense standing on the field, the officials continued to discuss the play before calling the roughing-the-passer penalty.

With new life, Salmen closed the deficit to six points on a 25-yard field goal by Gulino.

After holding Karr to a three-and-out on the next possession, the Spartans drove 57 yards and scored on an 5-yard pass from Lipham to George Williams.

The Cougars scored on their first two possessions and led 12-3 at halftime.

After Keenan Canty returned the opening kickoff to the Cougars' 45, Legaux led a seven-play scoring drive that ended with his 16-yard touchdown scramble. George's extra-point attempt sailed wide left.

Legaux used his arm to give

Karr its second touchdown, a 17-yard pass to George.

Salmen's offense seemed poised to keep up with the Cougars early in the first quarter. On the Spartans' first play, Lipham completed a 54-yard pass to Williams, who was stopped at the Karr 14. After Salmen had first-and-goal at the 1, the Cougars stopped the Spartans on three consecutive plays for no gain, leaving them to settle for a 17-yard field goal by Gulino.

Legaux was 9-of-22 for 107 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Karr's offense stalled in the second half. Its seven second-half possessions ended with four punts, a fumble, an interception and a touchdown. The Cougars' lone touchdow in the second half came on a 4-yard run by Perry, a score set up when Javon Allen intercepted a Lipham pass and returned the ball to the Salmen 11.

Lipham was 20-of-39 for 238 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions. He rushed for 31 yards and a score.