

Saints turn out Lights in second half

BY TRIBUNE STAFF • SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

- HELENA — Gary Wagner threw three touchdown passes, including a 35-yarder to Great Falls native Christian Prosperie that broke a tie, and Carroll College rolled past Montana State-Northern 50-13 Saturday afternoon in a Frontier Conference battle of nationally ranked teams. The second-ranked Saints of head coach Mike Van Diest piled up 500 yards of offense and romped to the victory by scoring 37 points in the second half before a crowd of nearly 6,000 at Nelson Stadium.

The game was tied at 13 when Northern's Stephen Silva returned the second-half kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown. But the 18th-ranked Lights were unable to muster any offense in the final two quarters. Wagner, a Havre native who missed most of last season with a broken leg, completed 10 of 16 passes for 209 yards and three scores. He connected twice with Corey Peterson for touchdown passes. Sophomore Matt Ritter ran for a pair of touchdowns and backup QB Dane Broadhead threw a scoring pass to Casey Lamping. The Saints also got a touchdown run from Jeff Deal. Carroll, 2-0 overall and 1-0 in Frontier play, rushed for 274 yards against a Northern defense that was without star linebacker Stetson Koffman (knee injury). Jhevon McMillan and Casey Varner had interceptions for the Lights. The Lights (1-1, 0-1) got two first-half field goals from Kyle Kercher. Quarterback Jeff Van Nest was sacked six times by the Carroll defense, twice by senior defensive end Garrett Thompson of Great Falls.