



## West edges East 20-17 in historic Shrine Game

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GREAT FALLS - Michael King of Helena Capital kicked a 33-yard field goal in overtime to give the West a 20-17 victory over the East in the 63rd annual Montana Shrine football game Saturday night at Memorial Stadium.

It was the first overtime game in the history of the series.

The winning field goal snapped a five-year losing skid by the West and cut the East's lead in the series to 36-27.

King was named the game's overall most valuable player after kicking two field goals and scoring the West's first touchdown, on a 42-yard run late in the first quarter.

The East took the ball first in the overtime and settled for a field goal attempt from the 23-yard line, following rushing losses of 1 and 2 yards and an incomplete pass. Pelczar, who in the second quarter made a 43-yard field goal, was wide left from the 20.

On the West's first play in overtime, quarterback Matt Reyant (Capital) was sacked for 5-yard loss. Following two incomplete passes, King connected from 23 yards out.

"I was confident I could make it. I was confident my line would give me good blocking," said King, a standout on the Capital team that won a third consecutive state Class AA championship last fall. "It felt good. I knew it was good."

The East scored 17 unanswered points to take a 17-10 lead with 11:42 remaining in the fourth quarter. The go-ahead touchdown came on a 1-yard plunge by Eric Buer (Huntley Project).

After bringing down East punter Justin Smith at his own 22, following a high snap, the West used just two plays to tie the game at 17-all with 7:09 remaining in regulation. Bobby Hirsch (Belgrade) scored on a 20-yard pass from Reyant, and King added the extra point.

The East proceeded to drive 34 yards to the West 23, where Pelczar's field goal attempt was wide left.

The West then marched from its own 20 to the East 19. After the East was penalized five yards for an illegal substitution, moving the ball to 14, King's field goal attempt was blocked.

Hayden Kalfell (Miles City) picked up the loose ball and raced all the way to the West 1 as time expired. He was caught from behind by Hirsch.

King's 42-yard TD run and 31-yard field goal gave the West a 10-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

The East responded with Pelczar's 43-yard field goal and 18- and 1-yard TD runs by Buer.

Reyant was named the offensive MVP for the West. Jordan Tripp (Missoula Big Sky) earned the team's defensive award.

The East offensive MVP award went to Buer, who rushed for 74 yards on 13 carries. Linebacker Ty Timmer (Great Falls High) was named the defensive MVP.

The game was delayed for about a half hour early in the third quarter, after Tanner Rowberry of Sheridan suffered a lower leg injury. He was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

NOTES: Josh Zimmer of Great Falls High and Nathan Woods of Columbia Falls were named the most inspirational players of the East and West teams, respectively. Zimmer was presented the Bob Bennetts Memorial Award and Woods received the John Richards Memorial Award. The awards are based on enthusiasm, leadership and sportsmanship during training camp. The winners are selected by their teammates. Zimmer was a defensive tackle for the East and Woods was an offensive tackle for the West. ... The Shrine Game won't play host to another Shrine Game until 2012. Next year's game will be hosted by the Bagdad Temple in Butte and played at Bulldog Memorial Stadium. The 2011 game will be hosted by the Al Bedoo Temple in Billings and played at Wendy's Field at Daylis Stadium. The three-year rotation plan was approved in late January by the Shrine Game board.