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Ferndale head coach Kim Jorgensen celebrates his team's NCS Class A championship Saturday night at Martinez. Bryan DeMain/The Eureka Reporter

## Defense lifts Cats

by Bryan DeMain, 12/1/2007

While "The Big Game" was being played in Stanford, just over the hill in Martinez, another one was taking place.

Behind a stubborn defense and on the legs of Jourdan Del Biaggio, the leadership of Jake Morris, the all-around play of Shea McKay and in the presence of a modest, but brilliant coach, Ferndale shut down the most potent offense in Class A football to take home the North Coast Section Class A crown on Saturday.

The Wildcats held on to a 6-0 lead over St. Patrick/St. Vincent and won their second Class A title in six seasons.

Even near-freezing temperatures couldn't stop a Ferndale defense from smothering St. Patrick/St. Vincent nor could it stop Del Biaggio from picking up yards when they mattered most.

The Cats stole the energy right off the bat, forcing the Bruins to go three-and-out on their opening possession and then followed that up with the game's lone score.

Ferndale rushed the ball four consecutive times before Del Biaggio delivered a stunning blow on the fifth play of the drive, dashing up the middle for a 34-yard touchdown.

Del Biaggio carried the ball 20 times for 107 yards and the touchdown and was only real consistent producer on offense.

While the extra point was missed, in the long run, it just didn't matter to a team that played outstanding defense.

In appropriate fashion, Shea McKay played his final game in style, recording three tackles for losses, landing several big hits, recovering a fumble and returning a punt for 50 yards.

Senior Brice Titus sealed the deal for the Cats after the senior sacked St. Patrick/St. Vincent quarterback Robert Rivers on fourth down with just a minute remaining.

Talin Mobley, Chase Brodt, Silas Sarvinski and Matt Pedrotti were all huge up front in what soon became a battle for field position.

After the initial score, both teams grinded it out, which played right into the hands of a Ferndale team well suited for a slow-moving game.

Ferndale held Buins tailback Daniel Wyatt to just 45 yards on the ground.