

MCKENZIE -- Bethel scored two touchdowns in just over a minute in the third period to defeat 20th-ranked Cumberland, 32-30 Saturday at Wildcat Stadium. The loss all but eliminated the Bulldogs from earning a share of the Western Division title and with it -- a possible shot at the playoffs.

Bethel's special teams played a huge part in the contest, with Jahron Reynolds running a kickoff back 97 yards for a touchdown and taking a punt back 56 yards in the third quarter, setting up the final points for the Wildcats (6-3, 4-0 Mid-South West Division).

The junior receiver finished with 245 all-purpose yards in the game, including a 40-yard catch-and-run late in the first half that set up BU's final score before intermission.

Cumberland (6-3, 2-2) led 21-12 with 4:13 remaining in the second period after Lemeco Miller's 67-yard touchdown run, pushing the senior over the 1,000-yard plateau for the season. Reed Gurchiek scored on rushing TDs of 21 and 35 in the first period, as the Bulldogs took an early lead.

Bethel quarterback Wil Masoud, a 6-foot-6 senior, scored on runs of two and eight yards in the first half as well. He escaped pressure all day against the Bulldogs, who did not record a sack in the contest. Masoud finished with 62 yards rushing on seven carries, none bigger than a 13-yard scramble on 3rd-and-7 with just over a minute to play, essentially sealing the win on Senior Day for BU.

Once again Cumberland did what it wanted to do, holding the ball for almost 41 minutes and rushing 58 times for 329 yards, limiting the number of possessions for Bethel. Miller finished with 153 yards on 22 carries, his seventh 100-yard rushing game of the season, and Gurchiek nearly hit the century mark as well, carrying 17 times for 92 yards.

Gurchiek was also 12-of-22 passing for 155 yards and one score but was sacked three times.

Masoud completed 14-of-24 passes for 173 yards and one score as well. Raquis Hale led the Wildcats on the ground with 79 yards on 11 attempts.

Cumberland plays its final home game of the year next Saturday at 1:30 p.m. against Bluefield College.