Varsity Football Team Plays in State Championship Game

ORLANDO — Macgarrett Kings' two-point conversion try from a yard out was stopped. So was University School's bid to win the Class 2B state football championship.

The Trinity Catholic defense stuffed Kings at the line of scrimmage to win the triple-overtime thriller 56-55 at the Citrus Bowl on Saturday.

"I was supposed to sweep around the corner, but I decided to cut it up," Kings said. "I guess it wasn't our time this year."

"We made a collective decision," University School coach Roger Harriott said. "We felt we could get some push and get Kings around the edge. Trinity played it tough and walks out of here with the victory."

The teams traded touchdowns in the first two overtimes. Trinity (14-0) scored first in the third stanza with Jeremiaha Gates scoring from 10 yards. He finished with 188 yards on 33 carries and four touchdowns for the Celtics.

University scored on its first play when quarterback Douglas Cook threw a 10-yard scoring pass to Jordan Cunningham. The Suns then decided to go for the two-point conversion and the win.

"We thought we had a good play called, but we just didn't execute," Cook said. "Kings was supposed to run and throw the ball, but he didn't get the chance."

"I'm just glad our defense got that stop," Trinity Catholic coach John Brantley III said. "Our defense gave up 55 points, but they hung in there when they had to."

The Suns (13-1) were led by Cook, who went 43 of 61 for 430 yards and four touchdowns. Cook's 43 completions broke a state record, topping the 34 by Jason Roulhac of DeFuniak Springs Walton in a 70-39 loss to Jacksonville Trinity Christian in a 1999 playoff game.

Cook also set the state championship game record with 61 attempts, one shy of the overall state record. Suns wide receiver Nicholas Kutscher set the state championship record with 14 receptions, finishing with 134 yards.

University trailed 35-21 with 7:31 left in the fourth quarter. Cook engineered scoring drives of 80 and 55 yards that sent the game into overtime.

The Suns cut the Celtics' lead by seven when Cunningham caught a 54-yard scoring pass from Cook with 5 minutes remaining. After Trinity was forced to punt, University drove to the Celtics' 1-yard line and Kings scored on fourth down. Daniel Braverman's extra point tied the score at 35.

"I just wanted to make plays for my team to give us the best chance to win," Cook said.