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"It really hasn't sunk in yet," said Western senior quarterback Chris Payton moments after the victory. "It makes you realize that hard work really does pay

"In practice we spend a lot of time on special teams," Payton

While Western's special teams certainly deserve accolades, it was the dominating performance put forth by the defense that kept the Warriors in a position

The Warriors blitzed, pounded and punished the Eagles, recording 12 tackles for a loss including seven sacks. Senior nose guard Todd Saroki led the way

Eisenhower scored first when

"If it has to end, there's no better way to end it," Payton said. "We're 14-0 and state champions."

The two teams combined for a state-final record 910 yards; Orchard View amassed 629 yards to 387 for DCD. That eclipsed the previous mark of 888 set by Balding and Cheaning last year.

DCD faced third-and-one at its 29 in the fourth quarter when Albano took a pitchout and broke three tackles en route to a 19-yard TD run. The Engino added the extra point to give Country Day a 35-22 lead with 2:43 left.

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