Kain Medrano's Pick-Six Powers Washington Past Seattle

NFL WEEK 3 · 2026 | GRADES 5–6 | SEA @ WSH · WSH 33 – SEA 31

NAME _____	DATE _____	SCORE _____ / 11

STORY Read the story, then answer the questions.

One Play Waiting

With less than four minutes left, Kain Medrano saw his chance. The Washington linebacker grabbed a pass from Seattle's Sam Darnold and raced 50 yards for a touchdown. His interception return score, called a pick-six, gave Washington a late lead in a game that had kept changing direction.

That huge moment mattered because the Commanders had entered the day 0-2 and still looking for their first win. Seattle arrived at Northwest Stadium with a 2-0 record and hopes of another championship run. Before Medrano could make the biggest play, Washington had to stay close against Seattle's fast-moving offense.

A Lead Slips Away

Washington got an early break when rookie running back Jadarian Price fumbled near Seattle's goal line. The Commanders recovered the ball at the 21-yard line, then moved to the 6. Marcus Mariota finished the short drive with a touchdown pass to Rachaad White for a 7-0 lead.

Seattle answered when Darnold found Jaxon Smith-Njigba for a 1-yard touchdown. Washington then put together its best long drive of the day. Terry McLaurin, Stefon Diggs, and Antonio Williams helped Mariota keep the drive moving, while Jacory Croskey-Merritt ran hard. Treylon Burks caught an 11-yard touchdown pass, and Washington later added a 57-yard field goal for a 17-10 halftime edge.

After halftime, safety Sonny Styles intercepted Darnold, giving Washington the ball at Seattle's 42. Mariota quickly hit McLaurin for a 30-yard touchdown, making it 24-10. But Seattle would not fade away. Darnold threw a touchdown pass to Eric Saubert, and Smith-Njigba threw a 14-yard pass to George Holani before catching an 11-yard touchdown himself. The score was tied, 24-24, with 11:53 left.

Medrano Changes Everything

Washington answered Seattle's comeback with a patient drive and a 36-yard field goal by Drew Stevens. That 27-24 lead was small, though, and Seattle still had time to strike. Then Medrano stepped in front of Darnold's pass and sprinted downfield for the decisive touchdown. The extra point missed, but Washington led 33-24.

Darnold fought back by finding Smith-Njigba three times before a 7-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Kupp cut the lead to 33-31. Seattle needed one more stop, but White broke free for a critical 19-yard run. Mariota added a late scramble, helping Washington run out the clock and earn a 33-31 win.

Darnold threw for 379 yards and four touchdowns, while Smith-Njigba caught 10 passes for 128 yards and two scores. Yet Seattle gave the ball away three times, and Medrano made the one mistake that changed the game most. Washington moved to 1-2, carrying fresh belief into its next game against Indianapolis.

WORDS TO KNOW From the story.

critical (adj.): Very important to the outcome of a situation.

READING Fill in the bubble for the best answer. Write full sentences.

1 **What does the term “pick-six” mean as it is used in the article?**

- (A) A kicker makes a field goal from six yards away.
- (B) An offense completes six passes during one scoring drive.
- (C) A runner gains six yards on a fourth-down play.
- (D) A defensive player intercepts a pass and returns it for a touchdown.

2 **How did Washington turn Sonny Styles’s interception into a 24-10 lead?**

- (A) Mariota threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to McLaurin.
- (B) Stevens kicked a 36-yard field goal after the turnover.
- (C) White scored on a 19-yard run after the turnover.
- (D) Burks caught an 11-yard touchdown pass after the turnover.

3 **Which event best explains how Seattle erased Washington’s 24-10 lead?**

- (A) Darnold and Smith-Njigba helped produce two touchdown plays.
- (B) Seattle recovered a fumble near its own goal line.
- (C) Seattle made a long field goal before halftime.
- (D) Washington missed an extra point after a touchdown.

4 **Which statement best expresses a central idea of the article?**

- (A) Seattle’s passing game was too strong for Washington to overcome.
- (B) Washington built an early lead and stayed comfortably ahead all game.
- (C) Washington used a timely defensive score and late offense to hold off Seattle.
- (D) Seattle won because its receivers made more plays than Washington’s receivers.

5 **Why does the article describe Medrano's interception return as the mistake that changed the game most?**

(A) It allowed Washington to take the lead for the first time in the game.

(B) It gave Washington a touchdown lead after Seattle had tied the game.

(C) It prevented Seattle from gaining any passing yards in the game.

(D) It was Seattle's first turnover after a mistake-free first half.

6 **Explain how Washington won a close game after Seattle came back to tie the score. Use details from across the article to describe at least two important turning points and explain how they led to the final result.**

MATH Math practice. Show your work.

1 PRACTICE

The maintenance crew has to inspect 662 seats for signs of wear and tear. If they have inspected 48% of the seats, how many seats have they inspected? Round to the nearest ones place.

(A) 614

(B) 318

(C) 1379

(D) 980

SHOW YOUR WORK

2 PRACTICE

In week 10, Cardinals quarterback Jacoby Brissett had an unknown passing-yard total. 184 yards were about 71.3% of it. Find the total.

(A) 258
(B) 131
(C) 74
(D) 3

SHOW YOUR WORK

3 PRACTICE

A triangular banner has a base of 10 inches and a perpendicular height of 10 inches. What is its area in square inches?

(A) 200
(B) 20
(C) 50
(D) 100

SHOW YOUR WORK

4 PRACTICE

The merchandise stand orders 31.587 pounds of foam fingers. After a busy game day, they have 9.84 pounds of foam fingers left over. How many pounds of foam fingers were sold?

(A) 310.816
(B) 30.603
(C) 21.747
(D) 41.427

SHOW YOUR WORK

5 PRACTICE

Stadium operations starts with 68 units. A delivery adds 29 units. Which integer describes the change?

(A) 97
(B) 29
(C) 68
(D) 39

SHOW YOUR WORK

6 PRACTICE

In the 2024 and 2025 seasons, Ja'Marr Chase's averages for receiving yards per catch were 13.4488 and 11.2960, respectively. What is the sum of the values? Round to the nearest hundredths place.

(A) 2.15
(B) 12.37
(C) 151.92
(D) 24.74

SHOW YOUR WORK

ANSWER KEY

Kain Medrano's Pick-Six Powers Washington Past Seattle · Grades 5–6 · NFL Week 3 · 2026

About 20 minutes

Separate these pages before giving the worksheet to students.

Standards: RI.6.1 · RI.6.2 · RI.6.4 · 6.G.A.1 · 6.NS.B.3 · 6.NS.C.5 · 6.RP.A.3.C

READING

Correct answers are filled in.

1 **D** A defensive player intercepts a pass and returns it for a touchdown.

The article explains that Medrano grabbed Darnold's pass and raced 50 yards for a touchdown. That interception return score is called a pick-six.

2 **A** Mariota threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to McLaurin.

After Styles intercepted Darnold, Washington got the ball at Seattle's 42-yard line. Mariota then quickly connected with McLaurin for a 30-yard touchdown to make the score 24-10.

3 **A** Darnold and Smith-Njigba helped produce two touchdown plays.

Seattle scored when Darnold threw to Saubert, and then Smith-Njigba threw to Holani before catching a touchdown himself. Those plays tied the game at 24-24.

4 **C** Washington used a timely defensive score and late offense to hold off Seattle.

The game stayed close as Seattle came back to tie it and later cut the lead to two points. Medrano's interception return and Washington's late runs helped the Commanders earn the win.

5 **B** It gave Washington a touchdown lead after Seattle had tied the game.

Seattle had tied the score earlier, and Washington's field goal gave it only a three-point lead. Medrano's touchdown made the lead 33-24, which proved important when Seattle later scored again.

6 What a good answer includes:

A strong response should explain that Washington built leads, Seattle tied the game at 24-24, and Washington responded with Stevens's field goal and Medrano's pick-six. It should also explain how Seattle narrowed the score to 33-31, but White's 19-yard run and Mariota's scramble helped Washington run out the clock. The response should use accurate evidence from more than one part of the article.

MATH

Correct answers are filled in.

1	B	318
2	A	258
3	C	50
4	C	21.747
5	B	29
6	D	24.74