Kain Medrano's Pick-Six Powers Washington Past Seattle

NFL WEEK 3 · 2026 | GRADES 7–8 | SEA @ WSH · WSH 33 – SEA 31

NAME _____	DATE _____	SCORE _____ / 11

STORY Read the story, then answer the questions.

A Fast Start Fades

Washington entered Northwest Stadium at 0-2, needing proof that its season could still change. Seattle arrived 2-0, powered by an offense that had made difficult plays look ordinary. The Commanders found their opening when rookie Jadarian Price fumbled near Seattle's goal line. Washington recovered at the 21-yard line, turning Seattle's mistake into a sudden chance.

Jacory Croskey-Merritt helped push the ball to the 6, and Marcus Mariota finished the short drive. His touchdown pass to Rachaad White gave Washington a 7-0 lead. Seattle answered because Sam Darnold kept finding Jaxon Smith-Njigba, including catches of 11 and 20 yards. Tight end AJ Barner then gained 32 yards, setting up Darnold's 1-yard touchdown pass to Smith-Njigba. Early in the second quarter, the game stood even again, 7-7.

Washington Builds Its Edge

The Commanders did not panic after Seattle tied the score. Mariota led a long drive with help from Terry McLaurin, Stefon Diggs, and Antonio Williams. Croskey-Merritt ran with force between the tackles, while Treylon Burks caught an 11-yard touchdown pass. Washington led 14-7, and it added Drew Stevens' 57-yard field goal before halftime for a 17-10 edge.

That lead grew quickly after the break, when safety Sonny Styles intercepted Darnold at the Seattle 42. An interception happens when a defender catches a pass meant for the other team, ending that offense's turn. Mariota made Seattle pay at once, hitting McLaurin for a 30-yard touchdown.

McLaurin finished with six catches for 77 yards, giving Washington a dependable target during its strongest stretches. Yet the 24-10 score did not finish Seattle, whose passing game kept creating answers.

Medrano Seals the Turn

Darnold guided Seattle downfield and found Eric Saubert for a 13-yard touchdown. Then Smith-Njigba helped create an even bigger fourth-quarter response. He threw a 14-yard pass to George Holani on a trick play, then caught an 11-yard touchdown to tie the game 24-24 with 11:53 left. Washington regained a 27-24 lead on Stevens' 36-yard field goal, but the game still needed one huge turn.

With fewer than four minutes remaining, linebacker Kain Medrano delivered it. He intercepted a Darnold pass and raced 50 yards for a touchdown. This kind of defensive score is called a pick-six, and it put Washington ahead 33-24 after the extra point missed. Darnold answered with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Kupp, but Seattle's earlier mistakes had a consequence. White's 19-yard run and Mariota's late scramble let Washington run out the clock for a 33-31 win. The Commanders reached 1-2 with fresh belief, while Seattle fell to 2-1 despite Darnold's 379 passing yards and four touchdowns.

WORDS TO KNOW From the story.

consequence (n.): A result that happens because of an action or event.

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

1 **Which detail best explains how Washington took its first lead of the game?**

- (A) Darnold completed passes of 11 and 20 yards to Smith-Njigba.
- (B) Smith-Njigba caught a 1-yard touchdown pass from Darnold.
- (C) Price fumbled near Seattle's goal line, and Washington recovered the ball.
- (D) Barner gained 32 yards to set up Seattle's first touchdown.

2 **What does the phrase “Mariota made Seattle pay at once” mean in the article?**

(A) Mariota asked Seattle to change its defensive plan.

(B) Mariota scored soon after Seattle made a costly mistake.

(C) Mariota caused Seattle to attempt a longer field goal.

(D) Mariota forced Seattle to use all of its timeouts.

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

(A) Seattle's passing offense was unable to move the ball throughout the game.

(B) Washington controlled the game because it scored touchdowns on every drive.

(C) Washington turned Seattle's mistakes into key scores to hold off a comeback.

(D) Seattle won the game because its trick play changed the fourth quarter.

4 **How did Medrano's interception most directly affect the final minutes of the game?**

(A) It forced Seattle to attempt a two-point conversion after its touchdown.

(B) It gave Seattle possession for its final touchdown drive.

(C) It gave Washington a touchdown lead that Seattle could not completely erase.

(D) It set up Stevens for the field goal that tied the game at 24-24.

5 **Which sequence best shows why Seattle lost despite Darnold's 379 passing yards and four touchdowns?**

(A) Seattle made costly turnovers, Washington scored after them, and Washington ran out the clock late.

(B) Seattle avoided mistakes, but Washington won because of a missed extra point.

(C) Seattle recovered an early fumble, scored before halftime, and stopped Washington late.

(D) Seattle led at halftime, added a field goal, and forced a final interception.

6 **Explain how turnovers and other key plays shaped the game from Washington's fast start through its 33-31 victory. Use details from all three sections of the article to show how Washington built leads, how Seattle responded, and how Washington secured the win.**

MATH Use the game stats. Show your work.

1 **In week 3, Sam Darnold had 45 passing attempts. His practice total is 60% lower. Find it. Round to the nearest whole number.**

(A) 40
(B) 72
(C) 18
(D) 27

SHOW YOUR WORK

2 **In week 3, Sam Darnold averaged 8.42 yards per pass attempt. Suppose his practice average is 1.68 yards higher. What is his practice average?**

(A) 1.68
(B) 10.10
(C) 6.74
(D) 8.59

SHOW YOUR WORK

3 **Mia's week 3 stat sheet models Sam Darnold's passing-yard adjustment as 606 + (-227). Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -833
(B) 379
(C) -379
(D) -137562

SHOW YOUR WORK

4 **On Mia's stat sheet, in a week 3 game, Sam Darnold had an average of 5.05 - (-3.37) yards per passing attempt. Evaluate the expression.**

(A) 8.42
(B) -17.02
(C) -1.50
(D) 1.68

SHOW YOUR WORK

5 **On Mia's stat sheet, in a week 3 game, Jadarian Price had an average of 4.2 + (-1.20) yards per rushing attempt. Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -5.04
(B) -3.50
(C) -5.40
(D) 3.00

SHOW YOUR WORK

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT · Sam Darnold (SEA)

Passing yards: 379
Interception thrown: 2
Passing TD: 4
Rushing yards: 5

6 **Sam Darnold's stats from this game (SEA): 379 passing yards, 4 passing touchdowns, 2 interceptions, 5 rushing yards. Use the Player Spotlight above. Scoring: each passing yard = 0.04 point; each passing touchdown = 4 points; each interception = -2 points; each rushing yard = 0.1 point. How many fantasy points did Sam Darnold score?**

(A) 35.66
(B) 50.4
(C) 27.16
(D) 27.66

SHOW YOUR WORK

ANSWER KEY

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About 20 minutes

Separate these pages before giving the worksheet to students.

Standards: RI.8.1 · RI.8.2 · RI.8.4 · 7.NS.A.3 · 7.RP.A.3

READING

Correct answers are filled in.

1 **C** Price fumbled near Seattle's goal line, and Washington recovered the ball.

Washington recovered Price's fumble at Seattle's 21-yard line and then scored on Mariota's pass to White. This sequence gave Washington the first 7-0 lead.

2 **B** Mariota scored soon after Seattle made a costly mistake.

After Styles intercepted Darnold, Mariota immediately threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to McLaurin. The phrase means Washington quickly turned Seattle's turnover into points.

3 **C** Washington turned Seattle's mistakes into key scores to hold off a comeback.

Washington first scored after a Seattle fumble, extended its lead after an interception, and won after Medrano's pick-six. These events show how Washington capitalized on Seattle's mistakes despite Seattle's repeated rallies.

4 **C** It gave Washington a touchdown lead that Seattle could not completely erase.

Medrano returned the interception 50 yards for a touchdown, putting Washington ahead 33-24. Seattle later scored, but Washington remained ahead and ran out the clock.

5 **A** Seattle made costly turnovers, Washington scored after them, and Washington ran out the clock late.

Seattle's fumble and interceptions created important scoring chances for Washington, including Medrano's pick-six. After Seattle's final touchdown, Washington used White's run and Mariota's scramble to end the game.

6 What a good answer includes:

A strong response explains that Washington scored first after recovering Price's fumble, increased its lead after Styles intercepted Darnold, and then faced Seattle's comeback that tied the score. It should also explain that Medrano's late pick-six created the decisive lead and that White's run and Mariota's scramble helped Washington run out the clock after Seattle scored again.

MATH

Correct answers are filled in.

1 C 18

2 B 10.10

3 B 379

4 A 8.42

5 D 3.00

6 D 27.66

379 passing yards × 0.04 = 15.16
4 passing touchdowns × 4 = 16
2 interceptions × -2 = -4
5 rushing yards × 0.1 = 0.5
Total: 15.16 + 16 − 4 + 0.5 = 27.66