

Talented Dias gives shirt off his back

By KAT HASENAUER CORNETTA

FOXBORO — After Mashpee accepted the Division 6 state championship trophy yesterday, the coaches made an unusual request for DeShaun Dias: Give us your jersey.

Glowing from a 239-yard, four-touchdown performance that pushed the Falcons to a 28-8 win over St. Bernard's, the senior running back did what he was told. Then his coaches told him why: The MIAA wanted to display it at Patriot Place.

It was a fitting tribute to the player that rushed for more than 1,200 yards in the playoffs to lead Mashpee to its first Super Bowl title since 2011.

"I can't really say much," said a beaming Dias. "(This game) was a gift. It was a blessing to play here. I couldn't imagine myself being here right now. It's hitting

me now. I'm really excited."

He probably was also tired as he was the key cog in Mashpee's offense all afternoon. Dias carried the ball six times on the opening seven-play touchdown drive, including rushing for the 9-yard score.

"It set the tone for the rest of the game," Dias said. "I had to put a lot of trust in a lot of people, and I'm glad I did."

It would take until the fourth quarter for Dias to score his other three touchdowns, but they came just in the nick of time. His 58-yard rush with 8:41 remaining put Mashpee up for good. Later in the quarter, he added to the lead with touchdowns of 20 and 29 yards.

"He's the backbone of our offense," said quarterback Nick Carpenter. "He'll run the ball 50 times a game just to get the win."

Dias also contributed defensively, adding a key interception

with Mashpee only up by a score in the fourth quarter.

"At halftime, coach told me that we're going to end up having me sit underneath the routes," Dias said. "I was trying to do that earlier in the game, but they caught me. I listened to coach. I trusted the system."

And coach, Matt Triveri, trusted his captain.

"It's a team effort, but the reality was, he is a great football player," said Triveri. "I think he's the most underrated football player in the state."

Though his college plans are still up in the air, Dias and his coaches are hopeful yesterday's performance won't be his last on the gridiron.

"He's going to try to play at the next level," Triveri said. "He's going to be a great teammate, a great person. He's a winner in all facets of his life."



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX

MASH AND DASH: Mashpee star DeShaun Dias looks for daylight as he runs against St. Bernard's yesterday in the Div. 6 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro.