

Bulldogs Play Six Man Game

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs played their first six-man game on Friday, October 10th when Weskan High School came to town for an afternoon game. The boys had played six-man football in middle school, but this was the first time the high school had played.

The rules in six-man football vary from eight-man in that each quarter is ten minutes in length instead of 12. Also, the ball must advance 15 yards for a first down instead of 10. Another change is that every player on the field is eligible to receive a forward pass except for the quarterback. "It was a different experience," said junior Cole Ziegelmeier. "It is really more of a passing game than a running game," commented senior Domonic Luna. Another change is in the points after touchdowns in that running a PAT is worth one point and kicking a field goal counts for two.

Weskan has been playing six man all season as they joined a six man league for the 2014 season. "You could tell they had more experience with this type of game," added Dawson Spresser.

Weskan received the ball to start the game and did make some first downs, but the Bulldog defense was able to stop them and cover the multiple passes. The Coyotes scored their first touchdown half way through the first quarter. They attempted to kick PAT points but were blocked by the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs were able to advance the ball on their next possession but turned the ball over on a fumble. The Coyotes completed a pass but were pushed back by senior Braden Korte to end the quarter with a 6-0 lead.

The Coyotes continued to move the ball in the second quarter adding another score. Sophomore Jesus Aragon returned the kick for the Bulldogs before Luna ran in a Bulldog touchdown. Luna attempted a field goal for extra points but the ball went right and the 'Dogs were on the boards 6-14.

Both teams battled throughout the second as the Coyotes added two more scores and the Bulldogs gained a first down with a catch by Ziegelmeier. A 25 yard pass from Korte connected with Aragon in the end zone for another Bulldogs touchdown to make the score 26-12 at the half in favor of the Coyotes.

The Coyotes opened the second half with another score, but the Bulldogs answered with a run by Luna. Weskan pushed forward for two more scores to end the quarter with a 54-18 lead.

Luna ran in another touchdown in the fourth to close the gap as the defense extended tremendous effort with pass coverage, stops on the field, and an interception by Aragon. Dawson Spresser caught several passes including one from Korte in the end zone. This time the kick went straight through the uprights for the extra points and the score was 54-32 with four minutes to play.

Not about to give up, the Bulldogs played hard and worked to connect on their passes. Ziegelmeier nearly caught a pass that bounced off Aragon's hands. The next pass, intended for Ziegelmeier, was intercepted by the Coyotes, but Ziegelmeier dropped the receiver to stop him on the 7 yard line. The Coyotes ran the full length of the field for another score along with an extra point run. Nick Brown covered the kick but the Bulldog passes wouldn't connect and they turned the ball back over to the Coyotes who put in one more touchdown to win the game 68-32.

“This was a great experience for our kids,” said Coach Travis Smith. “The game was much different, and it was a big advantage for them because they’ve played all year.” “This is a strong chance that we will play a full six-man schedule in 2016,” continued Smith. We will play as many six-man games as possible next year to get more familiar with the game.”

The Bulldogs will be back at home this week for an eight-man game as they host the Wallace County Wildcats in district play.