

Bulldogs Play Strong Second Half

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog Football team once again outscored their opponent in the second half but lost 37-53 to the Greeley County Jackrabbits in their Homecoming game in Rexford on September 22. "My guys play their hearts out each and every Friday night," said Coach Travis Smith. "The one thing I have learned about this team is they are never going to give up. The last three weeks we have come up just short after strong second half comebacks."

The Bulldogs opened the game on defense, but a fumble recovery by Will Bruggeman gave the Dogs the ball. Diego Perez ran the ball to the 15 but a horse collar call on the Jackrabbits moved the ball to the 8. Dylan Wark ran in the touchdown to give the Dogs the opening lead 6-0.

The Jackrabbits had multiple penalties on their possession finally connecting on a pass to run in for their first score of the game. Their extra point run was good and they took the lead 7-6.

The Dogs worked hard to move the ball and connected on several passes from Josh Rath to Miguel Garcia and Will Bruggeman, but turned the ball over to the 'Rabbits who were able to score once more extending their lead to 14-6 by the end of the first quarter.

The Dogs stopped the 'Rabbits drive to take over at the beginning of the second with Rath and Perez making first downs, again turning the ball over. The 'Rabbits made a quick run to the end zone to increase their lead 21-6. Wark picked up the return kick running it all the way to the goal line to give the Dogs another 6. Tribunes pass game worked well as they were able to score twice more before the half for a 34-12 lead at the break.

Tribune continued to control the beginning of the third as they added touchdown midway through the third. The Dogs answered with another of their own run in by Wark. Wark also ran in the extra point for the home team. The 'Rabbits added another score and extra point only to be answered again with a score from Wark making the score 24-47 at the end of the third.

Wark opened the fourth with another run to the end zone. Perez ran in the extra point closing the gap with the Rabbits who answered with their final score of the game. Perez then crossed the goal line for a final score of the game 37-53.

Wark led the Dogs with 204 total yards, including 5 touchdowns, and had 7 tackles. "I was glad to be able to score 5 times for our team," said Wark. "This is the most touchdown's I've scored in a single game so far in my career. I appreciate all the hard work my teammates did on the field to get me in the end zone."

Perez led the Dogs with 11 tackles, 143 total yards, 1 touchdown, and 1 conversion. Josh Rath had 129 total yards along with 8 tackles. Additional yards were gained by Wyatt Amlong 14, Miguel Garcia 13, and Will Bruggeman 6. Tackles were made by Amlong 5, Garcia 5, Bruggeman 3, Abe Taylor 2, Jose Rios-Mendoza 1, and Maddix Green 1.

"When we finally take care of the things that shoot us in the foot, me included, the sky will be the limit," added Coach Smith. "I'm proud to be this team's coach. Thank to all who made this Homecoming Week special for the boys. On to the next!"

