

Bulldogs Gain Exciting Win Over Fowler

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs Football team gained an exciting 36-26 win over the Fowler Goldbugs on September 29 in Rexford. This was the first time these teams had faced each other with the Goldbugs entering six-man play this season.

The Bulldogs won the toss with junior captains Nolan Ritter, Caleb Korte, and Chucky Hernandez meeting the Goldbugs captains at the center of the field. The 'Dogs received the ball and made a few gains before a fourth down pass fell incomplete turning the ball over to the visiting team.

Working together as a team, the defense kept the Goldbugs from advancing the ball and set them back 12 yards with a sack by Korte. Junior Josh Spresser picked off a Goldbug pass pulling it out of the hands of the receiver. Fowler answered with their own tough defense but repeated incomplete passes from this team that likes to air it out turned the ball back to the 'Dogs at mid-field.

Korte gained 14 only to have it set back 10 with a holding flag. Dylan Spresser and Harley Weese each made short gains with a personal foul flag on Fowler giving the 'Dogs a first down. Korte and Weese each carried the ball before Nolan Ritter caught a pass for a touchdown with less than a minute in the first. The PAT pass attempt was incomplete but the Bulldogs led 6-0 at the end of the quarter.

Josh Spresser opened the second quarter with a recovered fumble inside the one-yard line. Looking at a full field, the Bulldogs put the ball in the hands of Korte and Weese. They made short gains but were plagued by penalty flags to end the series with a punt.

Fowler got their passes to connect and made their first score with a pass run over the goal line. The Bulldogs blocked their extra point kick attempt with a flag giving them a second chance. The run succeeded and the Goldbugs were up 7-6 midway through the second.

Back on offense, the Bulldogs ran the ball but Fowler intercepted a pass attempt. Miguel Monge and Wade Rush made their tackles as Fowler received penalty flags before succeeding on yet another pass to the 16-yard line. Weese stopped the runner followed by stops from Dylan Spresser and Nolan Ritter to keep the Goldbugs out of the end zone.

The Bulldogs took over on the 11-yard line with less than a minute in the half. Dylan Spresser had a good run, but Fowler intercepted the next pass. They passed the ball for another score but the kick attempt was no good as the Goldbugs led 13-6 at the half.

"We ran our plays pretty good, said junior Nolan Ritter, "but our pass coverage wasn't as good as it could have been. We did better in the second half."

Freshman Wade Rush kicked the ball to the Goldbugs to start the second half. Fowler kept to their passing game only to have Weese intercept their pass returning it to the 33-yard line. An illegal procedure call set them back, but Nolan Ritter ran in another caught pass for his second score of the game bring the 'Dogs to within one at 12-13.

Fowler answered with an end zone catch and PAT run to extend their lead to 20-12. Back on offense, the 'Dogs moved the ball towards the goal line. Additional

penalties set them back, but after a run by Dylan Spresser and a Bulldog time out, Korte got hold of the ball and, breaking several tackle attempts, ran the ball for a GP touchdown. The PAT kick attempt was blocked to close the spread to 18-20 for the 'Dogs.

Golden Plains stepped up their pass coverage to keep Fowler from connecting in their passing game. The Bulldogs responded to their encouragement from the sidelines to make gains by Korte and D. Spresser to get the ball to the three-yard line. "The crowd cheering helps pump us up on the field," said Nolan Ritter. "It's a full team effort."

After another time-out for planning, Korte forced his way to the 1-yard line with D. Spresser finishing the drive in the end zone. Again unable to make the extra point, the Bulldogs took the lead at 24-20 at the end of the third.

Fowler was not ready to give up after driving three hours to play the game as they passed for another score early in the fourth. Rush stopped the PAT giving Fowler a two-point lead 26-24.

The boys traded possession for a while with tackles from Weese, Monge, and Ritter before the 'Dogs took over on the 36. Dylan Spresser quickly ran the ball home putting the 'Dogs back on top 30-26.

The Bulldogs improved their pass coverage throughout the game repeatedly breaking up Fowler's attempts to air out the ball for quick yards. The Bulldogs took over with just under five minutes on the clock. Dylan Spresser made several gains as the 'Dogs gradually moved the ball toward their goal. With 3 minutes to play, Nolan Ritter pulled a long pass from Weese out of the air and scored a final time for the Bulldogs. Unable to make an extra point all night, the score gave the 'Dogs the 36-26 lead.

Fowler couldn't get their game going as the 'Dogs defense held tight with a tackle from Jeron Schutte, a QB sack from Korte, and an incomplete pass covered by Nolan Ritter. Taking over, the Bulldogs made short gains but gave the ball back to Fowler with 39 seconds to play. Pass coverage by Ritter kept them out of the end zone as the 'Dogs regained possession at 17 seconds.

Taking the victory stance, the 'Dogs knelt it out for their third win of the season. "We dug deep for motivation to finish the game with a win," added Ritter.

The Bulldogs had two players with over 100 rushing yards including Dylan Spresser with 113 yards and 2 touchdowns and Caleb Korte with 118 yard and 1 touchdown. Harley Weese rushed for 15 yards and three for 146 yards and 3 touchdowns. Nolan Ritter caught all three TD's with 90 receiving yards. Spresser also received 47 yds, Korte 8, and Austin Patmon 1.

The Bulldogs also played well with three players with 10 tackles each including Korte, Weese, and Wade Rush. Ritter finished the game with 9, along with Miguel Monge-7, Dylan Spresser-5, Josh Spresser-2, and Jeron Schutte-1 Josh Spresser also pulled down one interception and captured one fumble recovery.

The Bulldogs are 3-2 as they prepare to face the Weskan Coyotes at home on October 6. Weskan was last year's Wild West Bowl Champions last season. "We hope to continue our winning streak against Weskan on Friday," said Ritter.