

Bulldogs Keep Streak Alive

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs kept their winning streak alive stretching it to four straight and five overall with their 60-14 win over Wheatland/Grinnell on October 13 in Grainfield. "What a great way to finish the regular season," said Coach Travis Smith. "We sit at 5-2 and get to play at home for the first round of playoffs."

The Bulldogs won the toss and made several first downs with carries by Dylan Spresser and Caleb Korte before turning it over to the Thunderhawks. The 'Hawks weren't able to move against the Bulldog defense with tackles by Nolan Ritter, Wade Rush, and Korte.

Korte then returned the punt to the 25 and evaded the defense to gain a quick 8. Spresser ran a first down moving the ball to the six yard line. Korte finished the drive with his first of five touchdowns for the night. Jeron Schutte caught the PAT pass from quarterback Harley Weese to give the 'Dogs an early 7-0 lead. "We made a new formation for our PAT's" said Weese, "and it worked much better."

The 'Dogs again stopped the 'Hawks from advancing as Nolan Ritter intercepted a pass and ran it in for a touchdown. Another PAT pass connected from Weese to Rush to give the 'Dogs a 14-0 lead by the end of the first.

The second quarter continued to be all about the Bulldogs as Spresser and Korte carried the ball and the defense kept the 'Hawks from much forward momentum with Weese, Rush, Korte, and Miguel Monge making repeated stops. The 'Hawks continued to attempt to pass the ball with little success against Golden Plains' improved pass coverage.

The 'Dogs took over on downs at the 21 yard line with 4:00 to play to the half. Ritter caught another pass, this one in the end zone, for a third Bulldog score. The PAT pass connected once more from Weese to Rush and the 'Dogs led 21-0.

Another big tackle from Chris Stoltz kept the 'Hawks away from their goal as they were pushed back to the 74 yard stretch. They moved the ball but got pushed out by Ritter, followed by tackles from Weese, and pass coverage from Korte, Spresser, and Rush.

The Bulldogs got the ball back with under two minutes on the clock. Korte made several quick gains. Spresser took over the running with 24 seconds and ran in another touchdown for the 'Dogs. This PAT attempt did not connect and the 'Dogs led 27-0 at the half.

The third quarter got off a good start for the Bulldogs as senior Larry Radovich fired up the team on the sidelines and the GP Cheerleaders kept the crowd cheering. The 'Hawks ran a first down but had their next pass attempt blocked by Korte. Monge then tackled the Thunderhawk runner forcing a fumble, which Monge recovered. Spresser took over for a short run followed by another Korte touchdown. The PAT pass from Weese to Ritter give the 'Dogs a 34-0 lead early in the third.

The 'Dogs forced another Thunderhawk turnover with good hits by Monge and Rush allowing Korte to run in yet another Bulldog score. The PAT pass from Weese to Korte increased the Bulldog lead to 41-0.

The 'Hawks were finally able to score near the end of the third adding two points with a successful PAT kick, but the Bulldogs answered with a long run by Korte. After a fumble recovered for a loss, Korte caught a pass from Weese and run in for another touchdown and PAT to put the 'Dogs on top 48-8 going into the fourth.

The 'Hawks took over to start the final 10 minutes of play. They put the ball in the air in an effort to gain some yards and advanced to the 14. Harley Weese broke up four consecutive pass attempts to keep them out of the end zone forcing another turnover to the 'Dogs.

Following a Bulldog fumble recovered by the 'Hawks, they were able to pass in their second touchdown. Monge blocked this kick attempt for extra points to make the score 48-14.

The Bulldogs answered with a long touchdown pass caught by Spresser. A broken play on the extra point attempt left the 'Dogs in the lead 54-14. The 'Hawks had to turn the ball back to the 'Dogs again as they never let up on defense with tackles from Weese, Ritter, Korte, and Jaime Infante.

The 'Dogs continued to make advances by Spresser and Korte with Korte finishing the game with his fifth end zone score of the night and a 60-14 fourth straight win for Golden Plains.

"Our physicality and intensity has gotten better as the season has progressed," said Weese, who had 12 tackles in this game. Weese also connected on 9 of 10 passes for 89 yards and three touchdowns along with several PAT's and rushed for six yards. "This four game win streak motivates us to keep going. We plan to win out and get to the Wild West Bowl."

Korte led the Bulldogs offense with 20 carries for 203 yards and 4 rushing touchdowns. He also received for 26 yards and another touchdown along with 12 tackles. Dylan Spresser tallied up 16 carries for 194 yards and 1 touchdown, 41 yards received including 1 touchdown, along with his 3 tackles.

Nolan Ritter had two catches for 23 yards, 1 touchdown, 1 PAT and 12 tackles as well as one interception for a touchdown. Wade Rush received two PAT catches, had 10 tackles, and 1 fumble recovery. Miguel Monge totaled 7 tackles along with 2 from Austin Patmon and 1 from Jaime Infante.

The Bulldogs advance to the playoffs with their 5-2 record and will host the Western Plains Bobcats for their first round game in Rexford on October 20.