

Bulldogs Gain Big Win Over Weskan

By Judy Rogers

The Wild West Bowl in Dodge City is the goal of all teams playing in the six-man football division. Golden Plains took a step closer with a big win over Weskan in what can only be called the "Mud Bowl" on October 6 in Rexford. With Weskan having won the Wild West Bowl last year, the Bulldogs were determined to defeat them this year. "We showed fire I haven't seen before," said Junior Caleb Korte, "we were all pumped up and excited. It was the funnest game I've played this year."

"There's motivation for every game," continued Korte, "but we know when we come together as a team, we are the best. We just have to continue to prove it in our upcoming games."

The game got off to a late start with a 15 minute delay due to heavy rain. By the time the boys hit the field, they were wet, but excited to play in the rain. The Bulldogs won the toss electing to receive. Dylan Spresser and Caleb Korte each made gains with Spresser crossing the goal line with just over a minute off the clock. The PAT pass from Harley Weese to Korte was caught but knocked out of his hands to put the 'Dogs up 6-0 early on.

The Bulldogs got a great break when the kick to Weskan was dropped and recovered by Austin Patmon. They ended the drive with a deep punt back to the Coyotes who struggled to move the ball as the Wade Rush blocked a kick. Korte recovered the ball in the end zone for a second Bulldog touchdown. Nolan Ritter caught the PAT pass to give the Bulldogs a 13-0 lead.

The Coyotes tried to pass the ball, but pass coverage and defense by Weese slowed their advance. They gained a few yards only to be set back with a penalty. Rush tackled the runner for a loss on the next down and Dylan Spresser pushed them back further forcing them to turn the ball back over to the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs ran the ball again pushing their way to the 10 yard line. Following a time out call, Dylan Spresser ran the ball close to the goal with Korte pushing through to cross the line. Korte finished the drive with a PAT run and the Bulldogs were up 20-0.

The Coyotes continued to struggle to move the ball in the wet conditions as they fumbled only to have it recovered by Korte who ran it in for his third score of the night and 2 ½ minutes remaining in the first. Nolan Ritter stopped their drive and Weese claimed a safety to give them a 28-0 lead at the end of the quarter.

Early in the second, Korte gained another Bulldog score as he dragged his defender over the goal line hanging onto his jersey. He followed with a QB sack on defense along with tackles by Miguel Monge and Rush to put the Coyotes back on defense. Both teams traded possession for most of the quarter before Dylan Spresser ran in a touchdown. The Coyotes answered with their first score of the night to give the Bulldogs a 40-6 at the half.

Weskan received the ball to start the second half of the game but the Bulldog defense kept them out of the end zone as the 'Dogs took over inside the 20 and Coach Travis Smith encouraged them to "Don't Quit!" Dylan Spresser made a short run, then Korte caught a pass from Weese running to the 5. A few more yards put

them on the three as Dylan Spresser finished the drive with his second TD and a 46-6 Bulldog lead.

Weskan returned the kick only to have Rush slide in the mud as he pushed the returner out of bounds. The Coyotes attempted their passing game but another QB sack by Korte kept them from connecting. Spresser and Weese quickly brought them down short of their goal. The Coyotes finally made a successful pass to the end zone making the score 46-12 at the end of the third.

Korte crossed the goal line again as he broke through the Coyote defense to start the fourth quarter. A PAT pass from Weese was caught by Jeron Schutte for a 53-12 Bulldog lead.

The Bulldogs pass coverage improved throughout the game as they continued to break up Weskan offensive efforts. Midway through the fourth, Spresser and Korte moved the ball consistently down the field making it to the three. A false start by the Coyotes moved the ball half the distance to the goal allowing Korte to make his sixth score of the night ending the game early with a 59-12 Bulldog win.

“What a night!” said Coach Travis Smith. “My guys came out tonight with a fire I haven’t seen in some time. They wanted it more tonight than they have all year! I cannot put into words how proud I am to be the coach of this team and to be a Bulldog!”

Caleb Korte finished the game with 135 rushing yards and 6 touchdowns along with 10 tackles and 2 fumble recoveries including one for a touchdown. “Last year, I had six the entire season,” added Korte. “It’s definitely great to get so many opportunities to score, but it’s a team effort. I may get credited with it, but without blockers, I wouldn’t have any.”

Dylan Spresser ran for 142 yards and 3 touchdowns along with his 6 tackles. Harley Weese connected on 4 of 7 passes and had 10 tackles and 1 fumble recovery. Wade Rush had another 10 tackles along with a blocked punt. Additional tackles were made by Nolan Ritter-5, Austin Patmon-3, Larry Radovich-2, and Christ Stoltz-1. The team also had a safety.

The Bulldogs will finish their regular season games on Friday, October 13, as they travel to Grainfield to face the Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawks. The ‘Dogs’ goal is to defeat Wheatland and win the first round of the playoffs to make it back to Dodge City.