

## Bulldogs Go 3-0 By Judy Rogers

Three and 0 is a great way to start any season and the Bulldogs did just that as they travelled the 3 ½ hours to Rolla on September 14 for a late afternoon game against the Pirates. This was the third new six-man team that Golden Plains has played this season and the 'Dogs have claimed wins in all three with the 67-18 third quarter win. "Defense is very important to our game," said Wade Rush. "We are doing better and improving with each game."

Rolla won the toss electing to receive the kick from Wade Rush. They quickly ran the ball in for an early score. Rush and Caleb Korte stopped the PAT and the Pirates led 6-0. The Bulldogs answered with a touchdown of their own from Dylan Spresser following a 23 yard run by Nolan Ritter. Ritter kicked the PAT through the uprights to give the 'Dogs an 8-6 lead.

The Pirates were unable to make progress on their next possession as they were stopped repeatedly by the Bulldog defense led by Miguel Monge, Rush, and Ritter. They were forced to punt and GP took over on the 11 yard line. Jacob Ritter ran in a touchdown for the 'Dogs but a holding call brought it back. Dylan Spresser took the ball from Korte on a reverse play and scored another Bulldog touchdown for a 14-6 lead just three minutes into the game.

Defense kept pushing the Pirates back ending with another punt. Korte ran the ball before Monge caught a pass from Jacob Ritter on the 3 yard line. The Pirates defense pushed hard, but Korte fell over the goal line for a third Bulldog score 20-6.

The Pirates returned the kick for their second score of the night as pass coverage by Spresser prevented the extra point closing the spread to 20-12. A pass from Spresser to Jacob Ritter connected but another holding call on the Bulldogs set them back. They had a short gain on a pass from Jacob Ritter to Nolan Ritter, then Dylan Spresser ran in a 39 yard touchdown. Rush caught the pass from Jacob Ritter for an extra point and the 'Dogs were up 27-12.

The 'Dogs defense continued to prevent the Pirates from advance despite additional penalties. After Nolan Ritter intercepted a pass, Dylan Spresser ran the ball close to a first down. Another holding call on GP pushed them back before the 'Dogs gained 25 yards with a pass completion to Rush to end the first quarter 27-12.

As they changed sides, the 'Dogs worked hard to gain yards in the second but were pushed back by their own penalties. Following a time out, Korte ran in a touchdown only to have it called back again for holding. Rush connected on a pass to Jacob Ritter but the ball was turned over to the Pirates. The Bulldogs took a defensive stand forcing Rolla to punt once more.

The 'Dogs continued to make gains in the second only to lose ground due to additional penalty calls. At first and goal, the snap was fumbled and Rolla recovered. The 'Dogs stopped their advance taking over inside the 10 with a blocked punt by Korte. Following a time out at the two minute mark, Nolan Ritter carried the ball on a reverse for a short gain before Dylan Spresser ran in another 6-point score. The PAT run was unsuccessful as the 'Dogs led 33-12 at the half.

The 'Dogs came out in the third with a fire that couldn't be stopped. Nolan Ritter returned the kick for a quick touchdown. A blocked punt in the end zone for a safety put the 'Dogs up 41-12. Receiving the ball back, Caleb Korte broke two tackles to keep on his feet to return the ball to the 5 yard line. He then ran to the 10 and Dylan Spresser finished the drive in the end zone. Toby Korte caught the pass from Roberto Loya for the extra point and a 48-12 lead. Toby Korte then kicked to the Pirates who touched the ball allowing Ethan Shea to recover for the 'Dogs.

Caleb Korte again ran the ball to the 10 yard line but a fumble on the snap was recovered by Rolla. Rush, Ritter, Rojelio Loya, and Jaime Infante stopped the Pirates regaining possession for the Bulldogs. Nolan Ritter then caught a pass from Wade Rush for another touchdown, but yet another Bulldog flag called it back. Rush then caught the pass and despite the Pirate's defense attempts stayed on his feet for the touchdown extending the Bulldog lead to 54-12.

Rolla answered with their third score of the night with a 55 yard touchdown. Josh Spresser stopped the PAT attempt to make the score 54-18. Caleb Korte picked up the Pirates kick back to GP and ran 62 yards to the end zone. Rojelio Loya ran in the PAT extending the score to 61-18. The Bulldogs had one more chance to score with a touchdown run by Loya to end the game with a 67-18 Bulldog win with 20 seconds left in the third.

Defense was a definite factor in the Bulldog win as three players were in double figures on tackles led by Wade Rush 17, Caleb Korte 11, and Nolan Ritter 10. Dylan Spresser and Rojelio Loya each were credited with 5, Miguel Monge 4, Jacob Ritter 3, and Josh Spresser and Jaime Infante 1 each.

Jacob Ritter gained 157 yards for the Bulldogs-130 passing, 20 receiving, and 7 rushing. Caleb Korte rushed for 47 yards, received for 23, and had a 62 yard kick return for 132 total yards. Nolan Ritter rushed for 29, received 30 and had a 56 yard kick return. Dylan Spresser rushed for 100 yards and received 6. Additional yards came from Miguel Monge 34, Wade Rush 15, and Toby Korte 3. Dylan Spresser and Monge each had a blocked punt, Nolan Ritter had an interception, and Ethan Shea a fumble recovery.

The Bulldogs look to extend their undefeated season as they travel to Cheylin on September 21 for a 7:00 pm kickoff.