

Bulldogs Advance in Playoffs

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs advanced in the six-man playoffs with a 67-33 win over Moscow on October 25. Six seniors played their final game on their home field in Rexford for the win and a guaranteed spot in the Wild West Bowl in Dodge City on November 10.

"I am extremely proud of these young men and the leaders these seniors have become," said Coach Travis Smith. "We wouldn't be where we are at this point in the season without them." They will play in Ashland on November 2 for a spot in the championship game. "Get your plans made now," added Smith. "We need everyone there to help us get to the state championship game!" Kickoff is at 6:00 pm in Ashland.

The Bulldogs, who had not played in three weeks due to a scheduled bye week on October 12 and a forfeited game on October 19, were well-rested, fired up, and ready to play. They won the toss, elected to receive, and quickly scored on their first drive with a run by Dylan Spresser.

The Moscow Wildcats tried to pass but with tackles by Miguel Monge and pass coverage by the Bulldog defense, they punted back to the Bulldogs. Nolan Ritter carried the ball, then Jacob Ritter connected with Spresser for a first down, allowing Caleb Korte to run in a 39 yard touchdown. Jacob Ritter connected with Wade Rush for the extra point and the 'Dogs were up 13-0 with 8 minutes remaining in the first quarter.

The 'Dogs played strong defense to gain the ball back but Moscow also stepped up their defense to recover a fumble. Korte regained possession for the 'Dogs with a fumble recovery. Following a Bulldog timeout, a pitch from Spresser to Rush gave them first down. With several Wildcat penalties, the Bulldogs continued to advance the ball allowing Spresser another score for the Bulldogs to give them a 19-0 lead near the end of the first.

Moscow made some short gains despite tackles by Monge and Rojelio Loya. With 10 seconds remaining in the quarter, Spresser caught an interception. Ritter ran the ball, the Korte carried the ball for a first down as the Bulldogs finished the quarter 19-0.

Nolan Ritter opened the second with a pass from Spresser for a first down. Spresser then ran in a touchdown then connected with Monge for the extra point to put the 'Dogs up 26-0 to start the quarter.

Moscow answered with their first touchdown of the night and cleared the uprights for the PAT get on the boards 26-8. The Bulldogs tried to pass on their next possession but ended the drive with a punt allowing Moscow to score again midway through the quarter 26-14. Back on offense, Korte returned the kick for a 78 yard touchdown run and Spresser ran in the extra point to extend the Bulldog lead to 33-14.

Moscow answered again to close the spread to 33-20. The Bulldogs moved the ball on their next drive to put the ball on the 5 only to have the Wildcats recover a fumble. The 'Dogs were determined to stop them and made repeated stops by Rush, Korte, N. Ritter, and Spresser. The Wildcats called a time out with 14 seconds remaining in the half. Back on the field, they fumbled the ball and Korte picked it up and ran it in for a Bulldog touchdown with 1 second on the clock. Nolan Ritter's PAT kick was good and the 'Dogs went into the half with a 41-20 lead.

The Wildcats received the ball to start the second half but the Bulldog defense allowed the 'Dogs to take over Following an incomplete pass and a carry by Spresser, Caleb Korte put the ball into the end zone. The PAT kick was blocked by Moscow and the 'Dogs were up 47-20. The Wildcats answered with their own score to bring it back to 47-26 at the end of the third.

The excitement continued throughout the fourth with runs by Spresser and Korte with Spresser crossing the goal line once again. Nolan Ritter ran in the PAT with 6:26 remaining in the game to put the 'Dogs up 54-26. With Korte sacking the Moscow QB, the Wildcates punted back to the 'Dogs. Korte ran the ball to the 7 yard line allowing Spresser to finish in the end zone. Jacob Ritter connected with Rush for the Pat and the 'Dogs were up 61-26.

Moscow was able to score one more time with 2:35 remaining in the game to give them their final points of the night. They kicked back to the Bulldogs allowing Spresser to score a final time for the 67-33 Bulldog win.

Dylan Spresser was once again a stat leader for the Bulldogs with 6 rushing touchdowns and 211 yards. He received for 18 yards and passed for 38 for a total of 267 yards. He also claimed 6 touchdowns, 1 interception and 1 conversion. Caleb Korte rushed for 127 yards for two rushing touchdowns, received 20 yards, had a 79 yard kick return for a touchdown, and had 1 fumble recovery for a 55 yard touchdown for a total of 281 yards. On defense he had 14 tackles and 2 sacks.

Nolan Ritter rushed for 22 yards and received for 57 yards. He kicked two 2-point conversions and ran in one along with 10 tackles. Jacob Ritter threw for 59 yards and received 10. Wade Rush received for 11 yards, had 12 tackles, and ran in two PAT's.

Rojelio Loya had 15 tackles for the Bulldog defense and Miguel Stevens-Monge had 6 tackles and 2 sacks along with 1 PAT catch. Roberto Loya had 4 tackles along with 1 each for Chris Stoltz and Ethan Shea.