

Bulldogs Win Homecoming Game

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog football team gained their first win of the season at Homecoming with a 62-28 victory over the Greeley County Jackrabbits in Rexford on September 18. "It was great to get our first win," said junior Ethan Shea. "It was a team effort that really boosts our confidence."

Greeley County opened the game with a touchdown and extra point to gain an early 7-0 lead. The Bulldogs responded with a score of their own as Rojelio Loya crossed the goal line following carries by Roberto Loya and Wade Rush. The PAT kick was blocked to bring the score to 6-7.

Junior Ethan Shea made a big stop on the next play, but the Jackrabbits broke free on the following down to run 67 yards for a touchdown. The PAT pass connected giving the 'Rabbits a 14-6 lead. The Bulldogs came back, and despite penalties on both sides of the ball, Rojelio Loya flipped over the goal line for another Bulldog touchdown. Unfortunately, a holding call cancelled it. Following a short carry by senior Wade Rush, Rush threw the ball to junior Ashton Schiltz for the touchdown. The PAT pass did not connect and the Bulldogs trailed by two 12-14.

"It felt great to get my first high school touchdown," said Schiltz. "We ran the play the way we had been practicing." The Bulldog defense forced the Rabbits to turn the ball back over. Rojelio Loya ran the ball to the six yard line. With his helmet pulled off by a Greeley County player, the penalty put the ball on the three yard line. Rush ran in the touchdown with just over a minute until the end of the quarter. The PAT kick was blocked once, more but the Bulldogs led 18-14 at the end of the first.

The Bulldogs opened the second quarter with a touchdown pass by Rush. It was called back due to another penalty. Roberto Loya ran the ball down the field allowing Rojelio Loya to jump over the goal line for the touchdown. Roberto ran in the extra point to put the Dogs up 25-14.

The Dogs defense stayed strong with tackles and coverage from Ethan Shea, Jovanny Infante, and Toby Korte as the Jackrabbits repeatedly tried to pass the ball. They finally found the end zone and kicked for extra points to close the Bulldog lead to 25-22.

The Bulldogs answered with carries by Rojelio Loya allowing Rush to score yet another Bulldog touchdown. The Jackrabbits quickly responded with their final score of the game to bring the game within 3 at 31-28 with just over two minutes remaining until the half.

The Dogs took over from then and added another Rush touchdown with just under a minute in the quarter. The Rabbits continued to try and gain yards with their passing game, but the Dogs covered their attempts as their passes dropped repeatedly to go into the half with a 37-28 Bulldog lead.

The Bulldogs opened the third with a touchdown by Rojelio Loya. The Rabbits pass game continued to fail as Loya forced a fumble with a tackle allowing Roberto Loya to recover. Roberto carried the ball for several downs before running in the score to extend the Dogs lead to 49-28.

The Rabbits tried a trick pass play only to be called for an illegal pass penalty. With coverage by the Dogs and another Greeley County penalty, the third quarter ended 49-28.

The fourth quarter continued to be all about the Bulldogs as they added additional scores by Rojelio Loya and Wade Rush and a PAT run by Mason Green. The defense held the Jackrabbits scoreless the entire second half to finish the game with a 62-28 Bulldog win.

“We had a rough start,” said Shea. “We were a little down on ourselves. But we were bonding well before the game and had a good week of practice. By the second quarter we were working together and doing our jobs. That really turned the game around.”

The Bulldogs were forced to cancel the Natoma game on September 25 due to Covid-19 exposure and the Bobcats cancelled the Western Plains/Healy game scheduled for October 2. The Dogs plan to return to the field as they travel to Northern Valley on October 9.