

## GP Middle School Win Big in Season Opener

By Ethan Weiner

The Golden Plains Middle School football team hosted the Triplains/Brewster Titans on September 3, 2020, for the first game of the season. The boys played hard and defeated the Titans 46-0 in the 3rd quarter due to the 45 point mercy rule giving them their first win since late in the 2017 season.

The GP Bulldog's started off the first quarter on defense. Excellent defense by Josh Rath and Wyatt Amlong was enough to force the Titans into turning over the football. The Bulldogs were not able to capitalize off of the turnover and fumbled the ball right back to the Titans. More great tackling helped the Bulldogs force a punt to get the ball back. The Bulldogs were able to use the punt to their advantage, with Diego Perez running the ball in for a touchdown. The Bulldogs first two point conversion was successful on a run by Owen Patmon to put the Bulldogs up 8-0. The Bulldogs had another successful defensive possession forcing another punt at the end of the first quarter.

The Bulldogs kept the momentum into the second quarter with a run from Dylan Wark, followed up by a long touchdown run from Diego Perez. The Bulldogs failed the conversion to put them up 14-0, with 6:25 left to play in the half. The Bulldogs kept working hard on defense thanks to nice tackles from Perez and Miguel Garcia, before Wark was able to come up with an interception.

Rath ran the ball in on the next play to put the Bulldogs up by 20 points with 3:52 left. The Bulldogs couldn't convert, dropping the snap on the 2-point try. Excellent defense from the Bulldogs allowed them to take over on the Titans eight yard line. Rath was able to capitalize taking it in for the score, putting the Bulldogs up 26-0 heading into halftime.

The Bulldogs were able to keep their energy up coming in from the break. Rath took the opening kick to the house for 6 while Perez was able to add to the score by converting the 2 point try, putting the Bulldogs up 32-0. The Bulldogs defense stayed on fire forcing the Titans to turn the ball over on downs.

Wark was able to break a tackle and run it in for the touchdown on the next possession. The Bulldogs failed to convert the 2 point try, leaving them with a lead of 40-0. The Bulldog defense was able to hold the Titan offense once again, which set up for Wark to run the ball in for a touchdown giving the Bulldogs 46-0 third quarter win.

"I was so happy to get a win," commented Rath. "We actually played as a team." "I wish we could have played more," said Amlong about the game. "It felt good to work as a team." The Bulldogs will continue to play their season on September 10 in Long Island against Northern Valley.