

## Bulldogs Win First Game of Season By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains High School Football team won their first game of the season with a 57-7 half-time victory over Western Plains/Healy in Ransom on September 29.

The Bulldogs received the ball to start the game and following a return by Josh Rath and runs by Dylan Wark and Diego Perez, punted back to the Bobcats. The Bobcats ran in their first play of the series and the extra point to take the lead with their only score of the game 7-0.

The Bulldogs quickly put a stop to the Bobcat offense as the Dogs rarely started past mid-field. Rath scored a quick touchdown for the Dogs and Jose Rios-Mendoza kicked the extra points for the Dogs to take over 8-7. Rath also connected with Diego Perez for another Bulldog score. Rios once again kicked in extra points for a 16-7 Bulldog lead.

The Bobcats continued to pass the ball but were unable to connect to put the Dogs back in control. Dylan Wark ran in his first of four scores in the game who were quickly tackled by Rath near the goal line to finish the first quarter.

The Dogs took over early in the second with a second touchdown run by Wark. Rios lined up to kick the extra point, but, with the fake, passed it to Abe Taylor for the extra point. Following tackles by Perez and Rath, the Bobcats turned the ball over once more. The Dogs tried to pass but could not connect so Rath ran a first down to the 5 yard line. He then passed to Miguel Garcia in the end zone for another Bulldog score. Rios ran in the extra point for a 38-7 Bulldog lead.

Rios kicked back deep to the Bobcats who fumbled the ball in the end zone. Dylan Wark recovered the fumble adding another touchdown for the Bulldogs. The Bobcats were unable to gain much yardage on their next possession and fumbled the ball. Will Bruggeman picked it up and crossed the goal line but it was called an incomplete pass so the Bobcats regained possession. The Dogs took over inside the 10. Maddix Green gained a few yards for the Dogs with Diego Perez running in another touchdown for Golden Plains. The extra point pass was caught by Bruggeman for a 51-7 lead as the clock neared the half.

Rios kicked another touchback which was fumbled by the Bobcats. The Dogs recovered and with just seconds on the clock, Rath handed off to Wark for a final touchdown of the game ending with a 57-7 win for the Bulldogs.

“We all pulled together for the win,” said junior quarterback Josh Rath. “We had success running the football and, after that first possession, our defense was strong.” Although the Dogs didn’t tally a large number of yards as most of their possessions came inside the 20, Rath was able to run in one and pass for two touchdowns—one to Diego Perez and one to Miguel Garcia. Dylan Wark scored 4 times, and Perez ran in one more. Jose Rios-Mendoza went three for three on PAT kicks, threw one PAT to Abe Taylor, and ran in one more. Will Bruggeman caught a PAT for an extra point.

Rath had a combined total of 77 yards, Wark 73, Perez 35, Garcia 16, Rios 5, and Taylor, Green, and Bruggeman with 2 each. Tackles were made in this shortened game by Perez 8, Wark 7, Rath 7, Wyatt Amlong 7, Green 2, Taylor 1, and Rios 1. Wark, Bruggeman, and Garcia each had a fumble recovery.

The Dogs will return home to host the Triplains/Brewster Titans in Rexford on October 6 for their second game of district play. “If we use our speed to our advantage, we should be fine,” added Rath.