

Bulldogs Plays Tough Defense/Quick Offense in Win over Logan

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains High School Football team finished their season on Thursday, October 28, with a definite win over the Logan Trojans with a final score of 68-22 as the game ended with 3:18 remaining in the third quarter.

As the three seniors walked on to their home field for the last time as competitors, they played tough defense and stopped the Trojans on their first drive. Taking possession on the Logan 24 yard line, senior Rilee Spresser passed off to fellow classmate Tate Preston who ran it in for a touchdown. The extra point attempt was also a completed pass from Spresser to Preston to give the Bulldogs an early 8-0 lead with just over a minute off the clock.

Logan received the ball back but tough Bulldog defense forced them to punt in large part to the efforts of senior lineman Devinn Ritter. As the Bulldogs regained possession following the punt, junior Kalyn Weber received the ball from Spresser and again ran all the way to the end zone for a Bulldog touchdown. Junior Cole Christensen caught the extra point pass from Spresser and the 'Dogs now led 16-0.

Junior Tyler Stevenson stopped the kick return forcing Logan to start on their own 37 yard line. Despite short gains, Logan was stopped again by Bulldog defender Jose Bermudez before eluding several defenders to make a Trojan TD. With a successful 2 point conversion, the score was 16-8 with 7:23 still remaining in the first quarter.

With the ball back in Bulldog hands, Golden Plains made short work of attaining first downs before Spresser connected with Preston for another touchdown score. This time it was called back due to a GP penalty. The Bulldogs repeated the play once again getting into the end zone for a penalty-free TD and 6 more on the board. A failed PAT attempt put the 'Dogs ahead 22-8 with just over five minutes to play in the first.

The Trojans started their next series on their own 15 yard line after Spresser kicked off into the end zone. Preston stopped the first play for a short 1-yard gain while Ritter stopped their next attempt for a short 2-yard play. The next down found Logan running up the middle and making a first down before being ran out of bounds by sophomores Andrew Luna and Bermudez. Luna stopped the next two attempts by Logan before a Trojan runner slipped through for a touchdown. Stevenson and Christenson stopped the PAT attempt and the game was a close 22-14. The Bulldogs made a series of first downs before Preston caught yet another pass from Spresser, this time in the end zone for a touchdown. Weber ran in the extra points with two seconds on the clock and the Bulldogs ended the first quarter with a 30-14 lead.

In the second quarter, Logan had a long run before being brought down close to the end zone by Spresser. The next play was stopped by Ritter for a loss, but a Logan pass connected with a receiver who ran it in for the final Trojan touchdown of the game. With a successful 2-point conversion, the score was 30-22 with 10:05 still to play in the first half.

After that, the Bulldog team controlled the rest of the game with touchdown runs by Weber and extra points by Stevenson to extend the lead 38-22. As the defense repeatedly stopped Logan's offensive attempts, the boys from Golden Plains continued to cross the goal line. Weber carried in yet another touchdown and 2-point conversion on the 'Dogs next possession as they extended their lead to 46-22. When the Trojans

regained the ball, Weber jumped up and grabbed an interception to put the game back in the Bulldogs hands eventually running in one more TD for the team. Spresser took the ball over the goal line for the PAT and the Bulldogs now led 54-22 with nearly three minutes left to play in the first half. Spresser intercepted another Trojan pass and with time ticking off the clock, made several long passes in an effort to get the ball down the field. With just 10 seconds remaining, GP coaches called a time out to review strategy. Spresser then connected with Preston, but he was run out of bounds with 1 second remaining and the 'Dogs entered half-time with their 54-22 lead.

In the third quarter, Logan kicked off the Golden Plains but the 'Dogs punted back to the Trojans after several passes fell incomplete. The GP defense stopped Logan but the Trojans still managed to get down field to first and goal on the five-yard line. Preston took them down for a loss of five and their next pass fell incomplete to make it fourth and goal, followed by a fumble on the play that was recovered by Ritter.

After being pushed back due to an illegal motion penalty, Weber gained 8, Spresser gained 3, and a pass from Spresser to Preston gave the Bulldogs a first down. Weber then ran down the sideline for a long gain putting the 'Dogs at first and goal on the five-yard line. Spresser carried the ball but was stopped short of the goal line. With second and goal, Spresser ran the ball up the middle for a touchdown. Weber connected with Preston for the 2-point conversion and the 'Dogs led 62-22 with 3:51 remaining in the third.

Ritter kicked off to Logan who fumbled the ball but managed to recover it. The Trojans tried to pass several time with no success. When they tried to kick it, Ritter blocked the kick and it was recovered in the end zone for a game-ending touchdown giving the Bulldogs a 68-22 win with 3:18 still on the third quarter clock. The Bulldogs ended their season with a 4-5 record.

Senior Rilee Spresser finished the game with 14 pass completion for 207 yards and 3 touchdowns. He also rushed 13 times for 47 yards and one touchdown run. He also had 5 tackles and one interception and one 2-pt conversion. Senior Tate Preston finished the game with 9 receptions for a total of 168 yards including three touchdowns and two conversions. He finished the game with 10 tackles. Senior Devinn Ritter led the team with 12 tackles. He also had one fumble recovery and one block.

Golden Plains' juniors also performed well on the field including Kalyn Weber with 16 carries for 227 yards, one 14-yard reception, 11 tackles, 1 interception, 4 touchdowns, and 2 conversions. Tyler Stevenson rushed three times for six yards and had 8 tackles. Cole Christensen had three receptions for 25 yards, 5 tackles, and one touchdown. Sophomores Andrew Luna and Jose Bermudez contributed 5 tackles each to the Bulldog victory.