

Football Season Launches in Quinter By Judy Rogers

The Bulldogs 2012 Football Season was launched under a full moon in Quinter on August 31. The boys from Golden Plains had been practicing for three weeks and were eager to face another team. The Bulldogs received the kickoff and junior Chance Hoeting caught the ball for a good return and the season was underway.

After several short gains by senior Andrew Luna, junior Tristan Schwarz punted back to Quinter who quickly ran the ball in for the first touchdown of the game. After receiving the ball back from Quinter the GP boys continued to make short gains but punted back to Quinter once again. The defense was all over Quinter with senior Jesus Garcia and sophomore Joseph Koerperich bringing them down just short of a first down. Schwarz dropped them behind the line of scrimmage and another stop by Koerperich put the Quinter team at 4th and five forcing them to punt.

Hoeting received the ball from junior quarterback Grant Spresser and ran for a five-yard gain. A. Luna gained another four yards, but no gain on the third down had Schwarz punting from the 21-yard line. The defense stepped up once again with a stop by sophomore Colter Miller but Quinter still managed to get into the end zone and added two extra points to gain a 14-0 lead. On their next possession, senior Jose Bermudez returned the ball. Carries by A. Luna and Hoeting gained the Bulldogs eight yards as the first quarter came to a close.

The Golden Plains defense continued to pound Quinter down during the second quarter of gridiron action despite offsetting penalties. With 7:13 still in the first half, Quinter scored another TD. They were backed up by a flag on the extra point attempt, but caught a pass on the second try to extend their lead 22-0. The GP offense broke through for a first down and gained several yards before turning the ball back over to Quinter. Stops by Garcia and senior Camron Spresser broke up several plays by Quinter. They finally broke through for a long run but C. Spresser stopped the runner just short of the goal line with 24 seconds until half. Quinter made a short gain to make it 1st and goal with 5.0 seconds remaining. A quick pass connected and the extra point was good to give Quinter a 30-0 lead as the buzzer sounded.

Quinter scored yet another touchdown halfway through the third quarter and one more with just over three minutes remaining in the quarter expanding their lead to 42-0 as the third ended. When the fourth quarter began, it looked as if the Golden Plains team might be shut out, but the GP offense took to the field with determination and grit. Senior Andrew Luna broke through for a 60 yard touchdown run just as the quarter started. Although the extra point pass attempt was broken up, the Bulldogs were on the scoreboard. Back on defense, Bermudez stopped Quinter short of a first down, Koerperich pushed them out of bounds at the 30-yard line, and C. Spresser ran Quinter aground just past the line of scrimmage. Hoeting stopped Quinter again and again putting them at 4th and two. Sophomore Domonic Luna brought down the Quinter runner after he broke through for a gain. With just ½ yard to go on a third down, Quinter pushed over the goal line.

Trailing 48-6 with eight minutes still to play, the Golden Plains boys were not ready to give up the game. Junior Josh Barnhart gained four yards before D. Luna gained the first down. Following another 6-yard gain from D. Luna, Hoeting broke

through for a 45-yard dash to the end zone. The extra point attempt was no good and the score was Quinter 48-Golden Plains 12 with six minutes remaining in the game.

With the crowd getting excited and enthusiasm on the sidelines, D. Luna stopped Quinter with a hard tackle and Hoeting recovered a fumble to give possession back to the GP 'Dogs. A. Luna quickly broke through for one more 55 yard run into the end zone giving the Bulldogs 18 points. Quinter managed an additional score bumping their total to 54 points as their extra point pass attempt failed to connect. The Bulldogs finished the game with consecutive first down gains from A. Luna and Hoeting. A final carry from G. Spresser ended the game as the clock ran out with a final score of Quinter 54-Golden Plains 18.

The team had a total of 294 rushing yards during the game with Andrew Luna gaining 196 yards and Chance Hoeting running 69 yards. Also running the ball were Domonic Luna-15 yards, Grant Spresser-10 yards, and Josh Barnhart-4 yards. The team had a combined total of 84 solo and assist tackles led by Jose Bermudez with 14. Others contributing were Camron Spresser-11, Hoeting-10, A. Luna-10, Tristan Schwarz-9, Joseph Koerperich-9, Jesus Garcia-8, Benny Martinez-5, Domonic Luna-2, Zach Spresser-2, Colter Miller-2, and Josh Barnhart-1. Schwarz and Hoeting each captured a fumble recovery.

Andrew Luna said, "We worked hard for three weeks to be able to compete with Quinter, but despite our efforts we came up short." Jesus Garcia added, "We tried hard, but I think we could have done better. We have been working harder and putting out more effort in practice this week, so we anticipate a better outcome." Luna concluded, "All our work this week will be shown this Friday against Western Plains." The Bulldogs will host the Western Plains Bobcats on September 7 for the home opener and host the Greeley County Jackrabbits on September 14 for Homecoming.