

Thunderhawks Bring Down the Bulldogs

By Judy Rogers

The Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawks brought down the Golden Plains Bulldogs 38-18 in a WKLL and District 6 football contest on October 19. The game opened on the field in Grainfield with the Bulldogs receiving from the 'Hawks. The Bulldogs moved the ball down the field with carries by Andrew Luna and Jose Bermudez before a pass from Grant Spresser to Luna connected to put the 'Dogs near the goal line. Tristan Schwarz finished the drive with a 1-yard touchdown to put the Bulldogs in the lead 6-0. With a failed 2-point conversion, the Thunderhawks took over adding a touchdown to their side of the boards. A 2-point conversion and a safety put the 'Hawks in the lead 10-6 at the end of the first quarter.

The Bulldogs continued to work hard in the second and, following a Thunderhawk touchdown, Chance Hoeting flipped into the end zone for another Bulldog score. The Bulldogs kicked back to the 'Hawks who consistently moved the ball toward the goal line to gain another touchdown and conversion to extend their lead. With one more 'Hawks touchdown the Bulldogs trailed 12-32 at the half.

The game was far from over as both teams dug in during the third quarter as their defensive squads powered through to allow no score during the quarter. The Bulldogs stopped the 'Hawks near their goal line as the quarter wound down. The 'Dogs started the fourth by punting back to the 'Hawks who broke through for a final 'Thunderhawk score. The 'Dogs turned the ball over once again. Despite the 'Hawks attempts to move the ball, the Bulldog defense kept them out of the end zone forcing them to turn the ball back over to the Bulldogs at the goal line. After quarterback Grant Spresser handed the ball off to Andrew Luna, Luna broke through the line and the Thunderhawk defense for the longest rushing play in the Western Kansas Liberty League this season as he sprinted for a 79-yard touchdown and the final points of the night. The 'Hawks still had time for one more possession but were stopped by the Bulldog defense and the game ended Bulldogs-18/Thunderhawk 38.

Andrew Luna led the Bulldog rushing with a total of 165 yards in the game. Also rushing for Bulldog gains were Jose Bermudez-44, and Chance Hoeting-8. Grant Spresser threw for 100 yards to receivers Tristan Schwarz-58, Bermudez-31, and Luna-11. Sophomore Benny Martinez led the Bulldogs' strong defense with 14 tackles. Seniors Jesus Garcia and Camron Spresser each claimed 11 tackles while senior Andrew Luna had 10 and senior Jose Bermudez tallied 9. Other tackles were credited to Hoeting-7, Schwarz-6, Josh Barnhart-6, Domonic Luna-4, Joseph Koerperich-2, Braden Korte-2, Cole Ziegelmeier-2, Koi Wessel-1, and Kade Wessel-1. Hoeting also captured one fumble recovery.

The Bulldogs will play their final game of the season on Thursday, October 25, when they travel to Almena to face off with the Northern Valley Huskies in a non-district game.