

Bulldogs Bring Down the Jackrabbits

By Judy Rogers

The GPHS Bulldogs brought down the Greeley County Jackrabbits on September 14 with a 46-0 Homecoming win at the end of the third quarter. This win puts the Bulldogs at 2-1 overall and 1-0 in WKLL League and District play.

The Bulldogs won the toss and elected to receive. Following runs from Andrew Luna, and Tristan Schwarz, quarterback Grant Spresser posted the first Bulldogs points of the game. Luna flipped over the line for the 2-point conversion and the Bulldogs were on the boards and ready to run. The Jackrabbits were quickly stopped by Luna before they jumped the line to back up 5 yards. A 'Rabbits pass attempt was batted from Jose Bermudez to Chance Hoeting who returned the ball to midfield. The Bulldogs capitalized on this interception to gain multiple first downs ending with Tristan Schwarz stepping over the goal line for another Bulldog touchdown. Following a hard won PAT from Hoeting, the Bulldogs led 16-0 midway through the first.

The Jackrabbits received the kick back from Benny Martinez only to be brought down by Domonic Luna and Jesus Garcia. Backed up by another penalty, the 'Rabbits were stopped repeatedly by the Bulldog defense and forced to turn over the ball. With the clock clicking down, Hoeting received the handoff only to be gang tackled by 'Rabbits. Bermudez carried the ball to 4th and one before Coaches Travis Smith and Travis Betz called a time out. Back on the field, Luna gained the first down, but the 'Dogs struggled to make progress as the quarter ended 16-0 with the 'Rabbits in control of the ball.

The Bulldogs regained possession early in the second and quickly scored another touchdown, this time by Andrew Luna. Hoeting evaded multiple defenders for the two-point conversion and the Bulldogs extended their lead to 24-0. Unable to move the ball, the Jackrabbits took to the air to try and gain some yards. Once they finally connected, Zach Spresser quickly ran them aground. The second down play was broken up by Bermudez, with the third pass incomplete thanks to coverage from Bermudez and Martinez. Zach Spresser nearly intercepted the fourth down pass attempt and the Bulldogs took over one more time.

Josh Barnhart gained a few yards before Hoeting was dropped in the backfield. The 'Rabbits intercepted a Bulldog pass only to be stopped by Camron Spresser and Hoeting. The 'Rabbits finally gained a first down but were tripped up again by Bermudez and Martinez. The Bulldogs took advantage of the Jackrabbit fumble on the snap and rushed forward to drop the quarterback in the backfield. With 3rd and 25 yards to go, Luna pushed the 'Rabbits back to 34 yards to go on the fourth down. The 'Rabbits lined up in punt formation but elected to run instead only to have Bermudez push them out of bounds to force the turnover.

Grabbing the hike from center Camron Spresser on the 26 yard line, quarterback Grant Spresser handed the ball off to Andrew Luna who ran to the end zone for his second touchdown of the night. The PAT pass fell short and the Bulldogs led 30-0 with just over two minutes remaining in the quarter. Quickly regaining possession from the 'Rabbits, Luna ran in a third touchdown and Bermudez scored extra points to extend the lead to 38-0 with 38 seconds 'til half time. Martinez kicked the ball in to the end zone as the first half buzzer signaled.

The Jackrabbits were unable to hold off the Bulldogs in the third quarter as the 'Dogs continued to dominate the game gaining yards and playing strong on the line. The Greeley County team intercepted a pass and returned to midfield. A definitive play from Domonic Luna ended their drive and the Bulldogs took over once more. As the third quarter wound down, the Bulldogs achieved multiple first downs ending the drive with a second touchdown run from Schwarz. A final two-point pass was caught by Bermudez in the end zone to finish the game 46-0 with 15 seconds on the third quarter clock.

Jose Bermudez said, "We played great and with a lot of enthusiasm. We were playing for the initials on our helmet and the large crowd of supporters. Everyone displayed great effort and their spark did not decline throughout the game."

Golden Plains' dominance in this game is reflected in the game statistics. The Bulldogs rushed for a total of 311 yards while the Jackrabbits only totaled 12 rushing yards. Andrew Luna led with 153 yards along with Hoeting-95, Schwarz-27, Bermudez-21, Barnhart-9, Grant Spresser-3, and Domonic Luna-3. The 'Dogs tallied 49 tackles led by Bermudez and Andrew Luna with 8 each. Other tacklers included Jesus Garcia-6, Camron Spresser-5, Domonic Luna, Hoeting, Martinez, and Zach Spresser with 4 each, Schwarz-3, Joseph Koerperich-2, and Barnhart-1. The Bulldogs hit the road for their next game as they head to Weskan for a 3:30 game on September 21. Andrew Luna concluded, "We look forward to another large crowd when we return home to play the Cheylin Cougars on September 28."