

Bulldogs Win First Game

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains High School Football team won their first game of the season as they defeated the Western Plains/Healy Bobcats 50-0 in Rexford on September 30.

The Bulldogs kicked to the Bobcats to start the game with a touchback kicked by Iu Ribera. The Cats were stopped by Mason Green and Diego Perez with a hard tackle by Dylan Wark forcing a fumble which the Bulldogs recovered. Perez made two good runs before Green finished the drive with the first score of the game. Ribera kicked a conversion and the Dogs were up 8-0 early in the first.

The Cats were unable to make any progress on their next possession due in part to the Bulldogs defense led by Wark, Perez, and Will Bruggeman. They dropped the ball several times and the Bulldogs took over. Quarterback Josh Rath passed the ball into the hands of Will Bruggeman who ran it over the goal line for a second GP touchdown. Another PAT kick by Ribera put the Dogs up 16-0.

The Dogs defense continued to hold the Cats back forcing a turnover as Landon Meier made repeated tackles along with Wark and Rath. Mason Green then scored a third time for the Dogs and Ribera had another kick through the goalposts for a 24-0 Bulldog lead.

Green, Miguel Garcia, and Wark worked together to stop the Bobcats progress. Wark recovered a fumble returning possession to GP. Ribera ran the ball just short of the goal before finishing with a touchdown on the next play. Perez ran for the PAT but was stopped just short of the goal line giving the Bulldogs a 30-0 lead at the end of the first.

The Dogs continued to control the game and cross the goal line throughout the second quarter. Perez opened the quarter with a touchdown score and another PAT stopped short. Meier then scored a touchdown on a reverse play followed by an extra point run by Wark. Perez scored again midway through the quarter. Ribera ran in the extra point to give the Dogs a 50-0 lead.

Both teams battled out the last five minutes as the clock clicked down to give the Dogs the win 50-0 at the half. "We were ready for a win," said Iu Ribera. "We are looking forward to playing in Brewster next week hoping for another win." "I enjoyed running in the touchdown," added Iu Ribera. "It makes me more diverse on the field than just kicking."

Five players scored touchdowns for the Bulldogs including Mason Green-2, Diego Perez-2, Will Bruggeman-1, Iu Ribera-1, and Landon Meier-1. Ribera kicked three PAT's while Wark and Ribera each ran in one. Rath, Meier, and Wark each had a fumble recovery.

The Bulldog defense was strong as the Dogs allowed no first downs for the Bobcats. Senior Mason Green led the tackling with 16 while Meier had 12, Wark 10, Perez 8, Bruggeman-7, Miguel Garcia 3, and Wyatt Amlong 2.

"Our defense is improving," said Green. "Our underclassmen are coming along as they gain experience. We still need to work on hanging on to the ball and staying positive throughout the game. Hopefully we can add another win next week so that we can get a home playoff game." The Bulldogs will travel to Brewster on October 7 to play the Triplains/Brewster Titans with a 7:00 pm kickoff.