

Bulldogs Overrun By Jackrabbits By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs High School Football team was defeated 38-72 by the Greeley County Jackrabbits from Tribune on Friday, September 17. This loss brings the Bulldogs to 0-3 on the season as they continue district play this week in Weskan. Senior Rilee Spresser said, "The offense moved the ball well. We broke down on defense which allowed them to score." He continued, "We stopped them when they ran up the middle but not when they went to the outside."

This high scoring game began with the Bulldogs' quarterback Rilee Spresser kicking off to the Jackrabbits. Strong defense by the 'Dogs gave them the ball after Tribune was unable to advance the ball. First downs were made by Spresser and Kalyn Weber before Spresser connected with Tate Preston in the end zone for the first touchdown of the game with 8:49 still to play in the first. With a failed PAT attempt, the Bulldogs held the lead 6-0.

After receiving the ball back, Tribunes made a long run before being pushed out of bounds by Weber. They were stopped the next two plays before making a touchdown and PAT to gain the lead 6-8. After Jose Bermudez caught the kick back from Tribune, the boys were able to make short gains until a pass interference penalty on Tribune gave the Bulldogs a first down. After Spresser ran a gain of 8, Tribune was called for an off-sides penalty and GP earned another first down. Weber ran another first down before being pushed off the field. Spresser and Weber continued to alternate runs until Spresser carried the ball over the goal line. A PAT pass was caught by Preston to give the Bulldogs a 14-8 lead with just over five minutes left to play in the first.

With the Jackrabbits back on offense, they ran the ball on several plays only to be brought down repeatedly by the Bulldog defense. With no success on the ground, the 'Rabbits put the ball in the air and gained another touchdown. An incomplete PAT pass tied the game up 14-14. With 3:34 still to play in the first, both teams battled to gain field advantage until the end of the quarter.

Still tied at the beginning of the second, Greeley County held possession. They fumbled and recovered the ball, throwing it for a first down. After a runner was unable to get past GP's Andrew Luna, they once again put the ball in the air and connected to run in past the goal line. With a 2 point conversion stopped by the Bulldog defense, the Jackrabbits held a 14-20 lead with over ten minutes to play in the half.

Despite some gains by the Bulldogs, they were unable to advance and Spresser had to punt back to the Jackrabbits who were able to push through for yet another score. This time they passed the ball into the end zone for the PAT and extended their lead to 14-28. With the Bulldogs unable to advance on their next possession, the 'Rabbits were able to score again with just under four minutes left in the quarter. The Bulldogs put the ball in the air on their next possession and with passes reeled in by Preston and Christensen, the Bulldogs were able to advance the ball and to make another touchdown with a pass caught by Preston in the end zone. The PAT pass was knocked away and the Bulldogs closed the gap to 20-36 with 2:02 on the clock.

Just over a minute later, Greeley County was able to score yet again to extend their lead to 20-36 with another pass into the end zone along with a 2 point conversion. With just seconds on the clock, Golden Plains passed the ball repeatedly to try and get it down

the field. A personal foul penalty on Greeley County gave GP a first down and within sight of the goal line only to lose ground with an intentional grounding penalty. The half ended with the Bulldogs trailing the Jackrabbits 20-44 at the half.

Senior Devinn Ritter took over the kicking duties to start the second half with a good kick. Both teams moved the ball back and forth throughout the third quarter with neither team able to score.

After a scoreless third quarter, the fourth saw numerous points posted. Starting off the fourth, Greeley County put in a touchdown extending their lead to 20-50. When Greeley kicked back after the score, they kicked and recovered an on side kick to regain possession and run toward the goal line only to be tackled by Spresser just short of the goal. They were stopped on their next run by Luna and Ritter and their next pass attempts were broken up by Luna and Weber. This gave the Bulldogs the ball on their own five yard line and Spresser ran over 30 yards for the first down. They gained another first down with a pass caught by Preston. They continued to gain first downs by Spresser and Weber with Weber running in a touchdown for the Bulldogs with just over six minutes left in the game. With a failed PAT pass attempt, Golden Plains closed the gap slightly with a 26-50 score.

Greeley County was able to add a touchdown and PAT to their tally within a minute of clock time. Preston caught another pass from Spresser to increase the Bulldog side of the scoreboard to 32-58 with 2:44 left in the game. Just seconds later, Greeley County added another touchdown to their total as the score widened to 32-66 with 2:06 still to play.

With GP back in control, Weber returned to the 30 and ran the ball for a first down. After a four yard gain by junior Ethan Walter, Spresser went back to pass but decided to keep the ball and ran to inside the 5 yard line. After another carry by Spresser, junior Tyler Stevenson ran in the final Bulldog touchdown of the game. Freshman Josh Barnhart ran the PAT, only to fall short of the goal. With just 58 seconds left in the game, senior Casey Gould kicked back to the Jackrabbits kicking the ball into the end zone. Greeley broke through the Bulldog line for a long gain before running in their final touchdown with 3 seconds left to play. With a failed PAT attempt by the Jackrabbits, the game ended with the final score of 38-72.

The Bulldogs will travel to Weskan this Friday for a 3:30 afternoon game, their second in district play. The Coyotes are 1-2 on the season with a win over Northern Valley and losses to Cheyenne Wells, CO and Dighton. Spresser said, "We need to be more defensively sound and need to be able to tackle." He added, "The seniors need to be more focused throughout the week and keep up the intensity throughout the week and during the game as we prepare to take on Weskan this Friday."

Golden Plains stats for the game included:

Rilee Spresser—passes 11 for 166 yards including three touchdowns, rushing 21/130 yards, 12 tackles. Tate Preston—8 receptions for 119 yards with 3 TD's, 7 tackles. Kalyn Weber—rushing 20/101 yards with 2 TD's, receiving 2/19, 7 tackles. Tyler Stevenson—rushing 3/3 with 1 TD, 8 tackles. Ethan Walter—rushing 2/6. Cole Christensen—receiving 2/28, 6 tackles. Andrew Luna—10 tackles, Devinn Ritter—16 tackles, Casey Gould—5 tackles, Ryan Ptashkin—1 tackle, Jose Bermudez—1 tackle.