

Bulldogs Play Close for Homecoming By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs played a close game with the Deerfield Spartans for their Homecoming game on September 16. Too many errors by the Bulldogs gave the Spartans the advantage they needed for the 32-24 win over the Bulldogs.

“I feel we are working better as a team than we were at the beginning of the season,” said Sophomore Quarterback Josh Rath. “We are more and more motivated. We need to work on some details, but know we will get some wins yet this season.”

Iu Ribera kicked the ball off to the Spartans for the first of several touchbacks in the game. A penalty on the Spartans moved the ball close to the Bulldogs line. GP Freshman Diego Perez pushed the runner out of bounds, then the Spartans had a holding penalty. Perez recovered the ball in the end zone for a safety giving the Dogs a 2-0 lead to start the game.

Perez returned the Spartan’s kick for the Bulldogs and following carries by Perez and freshman Dylan Wark, an incomplete pass gave the ball back to the Spartans. The Spartans fumbled the ball and Perez recovered for GP. The teams continued to trade possession throughout much of the first but the Spartans finally got a score with less than two minutes remaining in the quarter. The PAT was good and Deerfield was up 7-2.

The teams continued to trade possessions until the Spartans scored once more near the end of the first. Their extra point pass fell incomplete giving Deerfield a 13-2 lead to end the quarter.

The Bulldogs moved the ball in the second with carries by Perez and Wark and a pass from Josh Rath to Abe Taylor. The Dogs continued to be plagued by penalties to push them back. Their defense was strong as Will Bruggeman, Wyatt Amlong, Maddix Green, and Landon Meier had repeated stops keeping Deerfield out of the end zone for most of the quarter. With just 34 seconds until the half, Deerfield intercepted a GP pass and ran it in for a touchdown. The extra point attempt failed and Deerfield led 19-2 at the half.

The Bulldogs opened the second half with a score as Miguel Garcia recovered the kick and Perez ran a 53 yard touchdown on the first play of the half. Ribera kicked the extra points through the uprights and the Dogs increased their score to 10-19.

Meier tackled the Deerfield quarterback for a loss of 10 so they took to the air completing enough passes for a first down. Midway through the quarter, they passed for a touchdown but the Bulldogs stopped the extra point giving Deerfield a 25-10 lead.

Perez answered with a touchdown run for the Dogs but it was called back with a holding call. Mason Green then ran in the ball for Golden Plains. The PAT kick went wide and the point spread narrowed to Bulldogs 16/Spartans 25.

The Bulldogs defense held strong for the remainder of the third with tackles by Meier and Perez while the offense made gains by Perez, Wark, and Green as the quarter ended with a 25-16 Spartan lead.

Both team stayed strong throughout the fourth and final quarter. Despite penalties on both teams, the Spartans managed to move the ball but the Dogs forced a turnover with tackles by Maddix Green and Mason Green with just over 2 minutes left in the game.

Another Bulldog pass was intercepted by Deerfield who ran the ball in for a final touchdown and extra point. The Dogs answered with a touchdown of their own scored by Mason Green. Ribera kicked the extra points and the Dogs were down by only one touchdown 24-32.

The Dogs fought to the end as Meier and Mason Green stopped the Spartan advance. Deerfield knelt out the last minute of the game to claim the win 32-24. “This was a tough loss for my boys tonight,” said Coach Travis Smith. “A 34-26 loss is nothing to be ashamed of! These young guys play hard each and every week and give me everything they have. That’s all I can ask of them. If we continue to eliminate the mistakes we are making, we will get there. Thanks to our great cheer squad, students, and fans for their support. I hope these guys do you proud.”

Diego Perez rushed the ball 16 times for 155 yards and 1 touchdown. Mason Green ran 9 times for 111 yards and 2 touchdowns while Dylan Wark rushed for 14 yards. Josh Rath passed for 27 yards but had 2 interceptions. Landon Meier received for 19 yards, Perez 23, and Abe Taylor 2. Iu Ribera kicked 3 PAT’s.

Meier led the Dogs with 17 tackles—13 solo, while Perez had 8. Mason Green and Wark each had 5, Bruggeman and Maddix Green 4 each, Rath 3, and Wyatt Amlong 1. The Dogs will travel to Tribune on September 23 to take on the Greeley County Jackrabbits.