

Bulldogs Open Season in Weskan By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs Football team opened their season in Weskan on September 2. The Dogs worked hard as a team but fell to the Coyotes 20-44. "I am extremely proud of my young Bulldog football team," said Coach Travis Smith. "We might have lost, but the amount of effort they showed was outstanding. Things won't be pretty from time to time, but these young guys want to be good."

The Bulldogs received the ball to start the game. Freshman Dylan Wark returned the ball to the 33. Following a couple of incomplete passes, the Dogs punted the ball to the Coyotes. The Coyotes were stopped by the Dogs, with tackles from sophomore Josh Rath and senior Mason Green, forcing a turnover on downs.

Back on offense, sophomore Maddix Green gained a few yards along with a run by Wark. Rath connected with Wark on a pass and Wark ran the ball in for the first touchdown of the season. The extra point attempt was unsuccessful and the Dogs were up 6-0.

Sophomore Miguel Garcia kicked back to the Coyotes and, despite stops by Wark, Mason Green, and freshman Diego Perez, the Coyotes achieved a first down. Additional stops by Perez and junior [Will Bruggeman](#) ended the series with a turnover back to the Dogs.

The Dogs moved the ball, but not enough as the Coyotes took control once again. Perez stopped their movement with a tackle as the Coyotes moved the ball to the one-yard line ending the quarter with a 6-0 Bulldog lead.

Weskan finished their drive to open the second. With a successful extra point kick, the Coyotes took the lead 8-6. Both teams dug in their heels and kept their heads up as the Bulldogs advanced with a long drive including first downs by Mason Green and Wark. The Coyotes also moved the ball with neither team adding to their score as the Coyotes held on to their lead 8-6 at the half.

The Coyotes came out in the third ready to score. They quickly added a touchdown with a pass run in early in the third. The PAT attempt was stopped as the Weskan team led 14-6. The Dogs played close to the goal line but a fumble in the end zone resulted in a safety for Weskan increasing their lead 16-6.

The Coyotes were back on offense following the safety. The Dogs defense worked hard to stop them with repeated tackles by junior Landon Meier, Rath, and Wark, but the Coyotes were finally able to score once more increasing their points to 24.

The Dogs moved the ball with some strong carries by Perez. Rath connected with Bruggeman for a gain of 9 but another pass attempt was knocked away by Weskan. The Coyotes took over scoring twice more to end the third with a 38-6 lead over the Bulldogs.

The Dogs were not ready to give up as they played with determination throughout the fourth. Meier sacked the Coyote quarterback to start the final quarter, firing up the Dogs. Perez made a gain of 7 then Mason Green carried for a first down. The Coyotes recovered a fumble adding a final touchdown to their score. Garcia blocked the extra kick giving the Coyotes a 44-6 lead midway through the quarter.

The Bulldogs took over and quickly scored with a touchdown run by Mason Green. The PAT pass from Rath to sophomore Abe Taylor connected giving the Dogs 13 points with 3 ½ minutes left in the game. Maddix Green ran in a final touchdown with less than a minute to play. Mason Green ran in the extra point to end the game with a 20-44 Weskan win.

Diego Perez carried the ball for 94 yards, Mason Green 71, Dylan Wark 51, Landon Meier 39, and Maddix Green 9. Josh Rath threw the ball for 47 yards including 1 touchdown. Wark had 30 receiving yards for 1 touchdown while Will Bruggeman received for 10, Mason Green 5, and Abe Taylor 2. Perez and Mason Green each had 11 total tackles, Rath 9, Meier 8, Bruggeman 5, Wark 5, and Miguel Garcia and Wyatt Amlong had 1 each.

“Each one of us contributed in the Weskan game,” said junior Landon Meier. “Each one of us will have to give our full effort to compete against Ashland.” The Bulldogs will travel to Ashland on September 9 for their second game of the season.