

Mid-Prairie falls in district battle for second

BY JEFF YODER
The News

CENTERVILLE

Mid-Prairie receiver Cain Brown caught two touchdown passes from Collin Miller in the first half at Centerville on Friday, but the Golden Hawks were unable to finish drives in the second half of a 30-14 loss.

Centerville opened the second half with a 15-play 62-yard drive that took seven minutes and 19 seconds off the clock. Mid-Prairie had an opportunity to take possession near midfield, but the Big Reds converted on 4th-and-7. Brody Tuttle's third rushing touchdown broke the 14-14 tie and gave Centerville the lead for good.

The Big Reds' 6-foot-1 215-pound quarterback rumbled for 272 yards on the ground with four rushing touchdowns. He finished with 40 of his team's 50 carries.

"He's a good sized kid and they run a good scheme, good system," Mid-Prairie coach Pete Cavanagh said. "We didn't play our best defensive game tonight and there's a lot of factors there, but give them credit. I thought they played well and controlled the clock and made it difficult for us."

A couple of fourth down penalties were costly for Mid-Prairie. A holding call wiped out Braden Hartley's first down run on 4th-and-1 to derail the Golden Hawks' second possession. Another penalty erased a 20-yard completion to Brown on fourth down in the final



JEFF YODER/THE NEWS

Cain Brown's second touchdown catch tied the game at 14-14 with 2:33 left in the first half.

quarter.

The Big Reds were able to overcome a holding call on their final scoring drive. A conversion on 3rd-and-7 led to a 22-yard touchdown run from Tuttle, which proved to be the dagger.

Brown's first touchdown was a 43-yard reception to give Mid-Prairie a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter. Miller found Brown again for a 30-yard score to tie the game at 14-14 with 2:33 left in the first half.

Brown finished with six catches for 123 yards and two

touchdowns. He made another grab in the endzone in the fourth quarter, but was ruled out of bounds.

"He played well, he made some big catches when we needed it," Cavanagh said. "And I thought Collin played better tonight."

Miller completed 11 of 23 passes for 188 yards and two touchdowns. Both Hartley and Tuttle were nearing 100 yards on the ground at halftime. While Tuttle continued to find success on the ground, Hartley finished with 120 yards on 22

carries with a long of 15.

"They slowed our run game down a little bit in the second half," Cavanagh said. "So we had to go to the air and then we fell behind and really that's not our game. So that makes it a little difficult, but I thought the passing game did pretty well considering the circumstances."

Cobi Hershberger had a 35-yard reception in the fourth quarter and Dylan Henry caught three passes for 22 yards.

The Golden Hawks turned

it over twice in the second half on interceptions. The Big Reds put the ball on the turf during their final touchdown drive, but Tuttle fell on the ball at the 22-yard line and scored on the next play.

Mid-Prairie missed a field goal trailing 14-7 in the first half, but forced a punt on each of the next two possessions to stay in the game.

Brown and Hartley led the Golden Hawk defense with 10 tackles each. Hershberger had seven tackles and Grady Gingerich had 5.5. Henry also had 5.5 tackles and led the Golden Hawks with 1.5 tackles for loss.

Centerville (5-2) took possession of second place in district 2A-6 with the victory, likely securing a home playoff game. Mid-Prairie (4-3) drops to 2-2 in district play, hosting Davis County in the regular season finale on Friday.

"It is what it is," Cavanagh said about opening the postseason on the road. "Those teams aren't going to feel sorry for us. So we'll focus on next week and finish the season on a win and then see who we have after that."

SCORING SUMMARY

MP: Cain Brown 43 pass from Collin Miller (Brown kick)
C: Brody Tuttle 5 run (Conner Stephens kick)
C: Tuttle 33 run (Stephens kick)
MP: Brown 30 pass from Miller (Brown kick)
C: Tuttle 1 run (Tuttle run)
C: Tuttle 22 run (Griffin Webber run)

Lone Tree can't find answers in loss at New London

BY PAUL D. BOWKER
The News

NEW LONDON

Lone Tree quarterback Ethan Bockelman's dive through the middle of the offensive line for a touchdown Friday night provided a spark for the Lions in their road game at New London.

The touchdown silenced the home crowd.

The score, combined with Jader Sanchez's extra-point kick, tied the game at 7 midway through the opening quarter. Game on.

And that's when things went bad for the Lions in their 58-21 loss to the Tigers.

New London (5-3), which has scored 132 points in its last two games, scored touchdowns on its next seven possessions. The Tigers didn't punt until the backups were in the game, they had a 51-point lead and a running clock was in place.

New London ran up more than 440 yards of total offense on the Lions, creating frustration among Lone Tree's defenders as the nightmarish night wore on.

"We played so well last week at WACO," said Lions head coach Joe Donovan. "What

we're asking is the same effort and we didn't get it. I understand they have some good athletes, but we saw good athletes last week."

New London senior running back Boden Pickle rushed for 149 yards and 2 touchdowns, averaging more than 11 yards a carry. Quarterback Dom Lopez completed all seven passes he threw, for 97 yards and 2 touchdowns, and he rushed 12 times for 74 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The Tigers' offensive attack followed Lone Tree's 42-17 loss to unbeaten WACO on Sept. 30 and a 54-14 loss to Winfield-Mt. Union on a night that Iowa football recruit Cam Buffington ran for three touchdowns.

The Lions had won three of four games until running into those buzzsaws.

"It's just frustrating," Donovan said. "I mean, we could stop two-point conversions for three yards, but we couldn't make a three-yard stop in the middle of the field. I pointed out to the kids, I just felt like we really played. ... It's got to be on me. I just felt like we just didn't play very aggressively for some reason. I'll accept responsibility."

New London senior running back Blaise Porter ran for



DANA ROYER/SYCAMORE MEDIA

Lone Tree senior Caden Smith drags a New London defender for a few extra yards during Friday's game.

touchdowns of 4 and 2 yards in the first half as the Tigers went ahead, 38-7. Pickle and Lopez also scored on runs in the first half, and Lopez delivered touchdown passes to Evan Reed and Reen Seberg, the second one covering 30 yards with

15 seconds left in the second quarter.

New London scored touchdowns on its first eight possessions.

The game loosened up in the fourth quarter, when Lone Tree backup quarterback Maddox

Jondle ran for two touchdowns on consecutive possessions.

The Tigers failed to score on seven two-point conversions, including one in the third quarter when Lone Tree's Caden Smith drove Lopez into the ground.

"That's a good team," Donovan said of New London. "They've got some athletes over there. When they get the ball, it's going to take more than one to tackle them."

The Lions (3-4, 3-3 District 6) return home to host Iowa Valley (5-3, 4-2) in their regular season finale at 7 p.m. Friday. Lone Tree is attempting to capture one of two at-large playoff spots in the eight-player class.

SCORING SUMMARY

NL: Blaise Porter 4 run (pass failed)
LT: Ethan Bockelman 6 run (Jader Sanchez kick)
NL: Evan Reed 18 pass from Dom Lopez (run failed)
NL: Porter 2 run (run failed)
NL: Boden Pickle 6 run (Pickle run)
NL: Lopez 16 run (run failed)
NL: Reen Seberg 30 pass from Lopez (run failed)
NL: Pickle 52 run (run failed)
NL: Lopez 9 run (Porter run)
NL: Seberg 38 run (run failed)
LT: Maddox Jondle 34 run (Sanchez kick)
LT: Jondle 6 run (Sanchez kick)

Huskies fall to Lisbon in final home game of the season

BY GIOVANNI CORONEL
The News

RIVERSIDE

A 42-point halftime deficit was too much to overcome for the Highland Huskies, who suffered a 48-8 loss to Lisbon on Friday.

The sophomore running back for the Lions, Tiernan Boots, had an efficient night on the ground. He rushed for 72 yards on eight carries to average nine yards per carry. Also, he hauled in one catch for eight yards, and rushed for two touchdowns in the second quarter.

The Lisbon defense nabbed four interceptions. One of the interceptions, by senior Hunter Clark, was returned for a touchdown in the second quarter.

"Lisbon is a very aggressive, physical team," said Highland head coach Cory Quail. "And I thought right away we started off really well. We just had some of the old mistakes creep up on us. And again, youth, inexperience, and stuff like that will get you sometimes."

The first half was all Lions, but Highland was able to stand firm after halftime, only allowing six more points, outscoring them 8-6 in the second half.



EMILY MARNER/THE NEWS

Highland's Luke Guseman (6) and Peyton Yeggy (32) make a block for quarterback Sage Hartley-Norman.

"That's just having the opportunities of growth," said Quail of his team. "You know the first half you learn a couple of things. You make the adjustments at halftime and then you see us come out and have success with that. So, that shows that we have some good things

that are happening for our program. We now have guys with experience doing that, we now know what we need to do in the offseason."

Highland quarterback, sophomore Sage Hartley-Norman did not complete a pass on Friday. Despite the QB's strug-

gles in the air, he was able to score the first and only TD for Highland, with a 39-yard rushing TD in the fourth quarter.

"Sage Hartley-Norman is really starting to become a true varsity quality quarterback. I'm really excited about him," Quail said.

The two-point conversion after the fourth quarter touchdown by the Highland QB was scored by sophomore running back Colten Sypherd.

Hartley-Norman led the team in rushing yards with 61 yards on 14 carries. The other biggest contributor on offense for Highland was junior running back Luke Guseman. Guseman had 47 yards on seven carries.

The Highland defense was able to force two fumbles in the fourth quarter and recover them both. The leading tackler, senior Peyton Yeggy, had six solo tackles.

This was Highland's last home game of the season. Making it the last home game for the seniors.

"Our seniors, this is the last game on their field. We had one that was, you know, very emotional about it. And our guys who would normally be bickering in the summer now are waiting out there and hugging him and making sure. So, we saw things improve, but we're seeing the environment, the culture improved too, and that's huge for the future of this program," Quail said.

Highland (0-7) will finish its season on the road this Friday against Pekin (2-5) at 7:00 p.m.