

Broncos kick offense into gear, team picks up first win

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 17 October 2013 18:38 -



Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze

Banner County quarterback Ben Hostetler has his legs taken out from under him by Wes Anderjaska (9) as Gage Crowell (72) throws him down by his shoulder pads. Also shown for the Broncos is Joseph Sramek (51).

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

After struggling to an 0-6 record on the season, the Wauneta-Palisade Broncos picked up its first win of the season Friday afternoon at home. Producing its highest point total of the season, the Broncos beat Banner County 54-47.

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The W-P offense benefited from the return of running back Jeremiah Kerns. Kerns was injured in the Broncos' third game of the season.

The Broncos didn't waste any time getting on the scoreboard. Receiving the kickoff, W-P drove from its own 27 to the Banner County 23-yard line in four plays behind the running of Kerns and Wes Anderjaska. Kerns' 14-yard run set up a 23-yard touchdown pass from Chase Rathe to Hayden Pollmann. Pollmann also converted the kick.

Forcing the Wildcats into a three-and-out, W-P was unable to take advantage, fumbling a snap at midfield.

A 21-yard touchdown pass by the Wildcats with 1:18 left in the quarter made the score 8-6.

The Broncos responded. A 34-yard pass from Anderjaska to Pollmann set W-P up with first and goal. Anderjaska was able to score from the seven-yard line to increase the Broncos lead to 14-6. It was the first touchdown in a wild second quarter.

The teams went on to score touchdowns on each possession until the score ran to 27-20.

W-P got touchdowns from Kerns and Anderjaska. Kerns carried much of the load, reeling off runs of 10, 36, 18 and 35 yards.

Following a Banner County punt, Kerns' run of 55-yards set up Anderjaska's second touchdown.

Trading turnovers, W-P began its final drive of the half on the Banner County 13-yard line and scored in one play when Anderjaska completed a pass to Pollmann in the endzone. Despite interference by Banner County, Pollmann's touchdown put the Broncos up 39-20 at halftime.

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As wild as the second quarter was, the third quarter started off just as crazy.

Banner County returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown and Kerns returned the favor on the ensuing Wildcats' kickoff.

An 11-play drive brought the Wildcats to within 34-47.

Banner County went on to force W-P to punt twice, while punting once itself.

But a Wildcat fumble set the Broncos up with first-and-goal on the 13-yard line. Two runs by Kerns put W-P in the endzone and ahead 54-35 with 7:35 left in the game.

Banner County was able to answer and force the Broncos into a three-and-out.

The Wildcats ended the game with a 36-yard touchdown pass as time expired.

Kerns led the Broncos with 256 yards on 20 carries.

“Jeremiah played very well,” said Frecks. “He and Wes both ran very hard and our line had one of our best games blocking this season.”

Anderjaska had 105 yards rushing on 20 carries.

Pollmann caught four passes for 105 yards and three touchdowns.

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Rathe completed two-of-three passes for 36 yards and two touchdowns.

Frecks said Anderjaska, Rathe and Pollmann executed the passing game well.

“Coach Randy Geier and I were especially happy for the seniors to get the win in their last home game and on Parents Night,” said Frecks.

W-P will now have a bye week before playing at undefeated Silver Lake to end the season.