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Late scores mask close contest as Roos fall to Lamar

Greg Webb
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ARLINGTON — With just under four minutes left in the game at Arlington Lamar's Cravens Field Friday, the Weatherford Kangaroos pulled to within a touchdown on quarterback Mitchael Rucker's 1-yard keeper across the goal line. The plunge accentuated a tough back-and-forth battle of wills from the opening kickoff, as the Vikings and Roos fought to gain the upper hand.

After the ensuing on-side kick attempt failed for the Roos, Lamar (2-0) took advantage of a couple of quick scores, helped by a Weatherford turnover, scoring 13 points in the last minute and a half to beat the Roos in a non-district tilt, 41-21.

The match's final score was a poor representation of the first 44 minutes of contentious football played by the two squads.

"I thought our kids went toe-to-toe with that [Lamar] bunch," said Weatherford head coach Kenny Wheaton. "It's just a shame about there at the end, to have those things happen and for it to get out of hand like it did."

After Lamar's opening drive netted a score, Weatherford (1-1) took advantage of the Vike's missed point after, going up 7-6 by virtue of Rucker's 7-yard scoring run and Josh Blanton's successful kick. Blanton would be perfect on the night with three PAT attempts.

The Roos' first score culminated a 6-play, 66-yard drive, punctuated by a 29-yard dash up the middle by fullback Jeran Gentry, who would finish the night with 80 yards on 14 rushing attempts.

Slotbacks Colton Kamper and Trooper Reynolds also led the rushing effort, with 79 and 59 yards, respectively. Rucker added 67 yards rushing. Weatherford finished the night totalling 280 ground yards on 39 attempts.

Weatherford stopped a Vikings' drive in the next series when defender Joe Ward picked off a pass from Lamar quarterback Tyler Wilson. Returning the interception to Weatherford's 25, Ward drew a face mask penalty to tack on 15 yards.

The Roos squandered the field position with a turnover of their own two plays into their possession with a fumble. Lamar took advantage of the miscue, and scored eight plays later to take a 14-7 advantage after the extra-point run.

Weatherford would put the ball on the ground three more times during the contest, losing possession twice.

"I'm was very proud of our kids not backing down from those guys at all," Wheaton said. "We made those critical errors that really cost us.

"We are a good football team. We just need to eliminate those mistakes. We're all excited about the fact that we can play, and we just need to fix the errors. And we can."

Lamar's head coach, Eddy Peach, echoed the sentiment about the Roos, praising the improvements of the Weatherford squad after the very physical game.

The thorniest burr under the Kangaroos' saddle was the ground-chewing of Lamar's running back JaTerian Douglas. The senior back gained nearly 130 yards, with most of the damage incurred in the second and third quarters.

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Photos



Weatherford quarterback Mitchael Rucker lays out over the goal line to score Friday in the Roos' game against Arlington Lamar. Trailing in the final period, WHS closed the gap to a touchdown before two late scores by the Vikings put the game away. Weatherford hosts Aledo in the Roos' home opener this Friday. **COURTESY IMAGE/DERIK MOORE/** (Click for larger image)

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The Vikings inserted fresh legs in the fourth quarter, testing the Weatherford defenders, who spent most of their time on the field in the fourth quarter.

The Roos' comeback to pull within a touchdown came after a defensive stop in the final period, which forced the Arlington school to punt, for the first and only time in the game.

Weatherford wasted no time taking advantage of the short field, covering the 38 yards to paydirt in four plays.

The Roos' decided to attempt the onside kick to keep their momentum intact.

"We debated a little bit about kicking it deep," Wheaton said, "but I had pretty much made up my mind. We needed the ball back.

"Even then, we had them at fourth and eight, but just missed a coverage."

After Lamar's touchdown following the onside kick attempt, Weatherford gave up the ball on the kick return, setting up the Vikings final score with less than a minute on the clock.

WHS looks forward to its home field for the next match, hosting Aledo on Friday. Game time is set for 7:30 p.m. against the Bearcats.

Arl. Lamar 41 Weatherford 21

WHS 7 7 0 7 — 21

LHS 6 15 7 13 — 41

Scoring Summary

First quarter:

AL - Tyler Wilson 1 run (kick failed) 7:26

W - Mitchael Rucker 7 run (Josh Blanton kick) 4:37

Second quarter:

AL - JaTerian Douglas 6 run (Douglas run) 8:25

W - Jeran Gentry 10 run (Blanton kick) 2:06

AL - Douglas 7 run (Bryce Morgan kick) :25

Third quarter:

AL - Tracy Smith 34 pass from Wilson (Morgan kick) 3:18

Fourth quarter:

W - Rucker 1 run (Blanton kick) 3:58

AL - Cliff Nyagesiba 10 run (kick failed) 1:33

AL - Dylan Pritchett 25 run (Morgan kick) :36

Team stats

WHS ALHS

First downs 15 16

Rushing 39-280 48-212

Passing 1-5-1 (4) 6-11-1 (94)

Punts (avg) 1-47 1-30

Fumbles-lost 4-2 2-1

Penalties-yards 3-35 2-20

Individual leaders

WHS

Rushing: Jaren Gentry 14-80, Colton Kamper 7-79, Mitchael Rucker 13-67, Trooper Reynolds 6-59.

Passing: Rucker 1-5-1-4.

Receiving: Reynolds 1-4.

ALHS

Rushing: JaTerian Douglas 28-129, Cliff Nyagesiba 4-40, Dylan Pritchett 5-32.

Passing: Tyler Wilson 6-11-1-95

Receiving: Tracy Smith 5-77, Maurice Ray 1-18.



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