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Wednesday, Sep. 30, 2009

## Roos continue turn-around season, win district opener

By BRENT SHIRLEY  
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The Weatherford football team continued its dramatic season Thursday with a fourth-quarter comeback to defeat Paschal 35-28 in the Roos' district opener.



Weatherford fullback Jaren Gentry runs with the ball during the first half of Thursday's 35-28 win against Paschal. Gentry scored the Roos' tying touchdown in the fourth quarter. (Photo by Brent Shirley)

After struggling to find rhythm for three quarters, the Roos woke up to own the fourth. The Roos (3-2, 1-0) trailed 21-7 early in the third quarter and 28-14 entering the fourth, but Weatherford scored three straight touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

"No question, it was one of the craziest fourth quarters I've coached," said Weatherford coach Kenny Wheaton. "I'm proud of the players. We will take it."

Weatherford, which won only one game in 2008, has supplied its fans with plenty of excitement this year. The Roos began the season with a fourth-quarter, come-back win on the road at The Colony. On Sept 11, the Roos opened up their new stadium with a thrilling 28-27 overtime win against Aledo.

"We know that we have it in us to play well, we have just waited too long to pull it out," said Weatherford fullback Jaren Gentry.

Against Paschal, quarterback Mitchael Rucker scored Weatherford's first touchdown of the fourth quarter on a one-yard sneak. The Roos defense stopped Paschal's next drive, giving Weatherford's offense a chance to tie the score. With a little more than four minutes left in the game, the Roos needed to go 89 yards to score.

"We weren't thinking about how far we had to go," Gentry said. "We just saw the green field ahead of us, and we knew we needed to get into the end zone."

Weatherford systematically marched down the field. Gentry capped the drive and tied the score with a six-yard touchdown run with 50 seconds left.

"Mitchael [Rucker] told me to keep moving my feet, and that's what I did," said Gentry, who crossed the goal line with two defenders hanging on his jersey. "I just kept driving. No one was going to stop me."

Weatherford got a break on the next kickoff. Paschal fumbled to give the Roos the ball on the Panthers' 30-yard line.

"When I saw the fumble, my heart was pumping, and I thought 'it's time to go now,'" Rucker said.

Rucker ran to the right, broke away from the Paschal defenders, and ran down the sideline for a touchdown on the Roos' first play of the drive.

"It took great character for the players to keep fighting like they did," Wheaton said. "They stepped up when they needed to. I was pretty upset at halftime, but we talked about staying positive with a green light."

Colton Kamper, Rucker, and Gentry all had more than 100 yards rushing in the game.

Weatherford has 15 days off before its next game. The Roos will play Abilene at home on Oct. 9.

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