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Breaking News: Eagles break loose in second half, top Weatherford 33-14 October 09, 2009 08:51 pm

Published: October 10, 2009 04:26 pm

Roos 'D' tests Eagles in District 3-5A tilt

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Before Friday night, the Abilene Eagles (3-0 in District 3-5A, 6-0 overall) were more accustomed to having a comfortable lead heading into second-half play against district opponents, so they could give substitutes playing time, or work on their passing game, or both. Thanks to the Weatherford Kangaroos' defensive play, the Eagles had to worry about winning a ball game going into the final quarter, with a mere 7-point advantage heading to the locker room at the break.

The Roos (1-1, 3-3) held off the Abilene scoring machine until the fourth quarter, when the Eagles used good field position and a couple of stalled Roos possessions to put 17 final-period points up toward a 33-14 result.

The Roos defense spoke early in the contest. After Abilene moved inside Weatherford's 1-yard line on its second possession of the game, the Roos defenders stuffed the Eagles' runners twice to take over on downs. The first quarter ended in scoreless tie. Only Tyler Lee, in Abilene's third game of the season, has held the Eagles scoreless in the first frame this year.

"We thought our defense played very well," said Weatherford head coach Kenny Wheaton. "Our game plan going in was to keep [Abilene's] offense on the sideline, and we did a good job of that the first half, but not so much in the second half."

The scoring drought ended at 9:10 in the second period, when Abilene quarterback Ronnell Sims scrambled into the end zone from 15 yards out. The junior speedster finished the game with 58 yards on nine carries, far below his usual production.

Weatherford's offense finally found its legs on the next possession and drove 89 yards in nine plays to answer the Eagles' score. The Roos first two possessions of the game had ended with a lost fumble and a punt. Strapped with poor field position for much of the evening, Weatherford's 4-minute scoring drive ended when fullback Jaren Gentry took the ball in from three yards out. The extra-point kick went wide left, as Weatherford pulled to within a point, 7-6, with four and a half minutes before the half.

Helped to a short field on a 39-yard return by Abilene wide-out Darius Joseph on the ensuing kickoff, the Eagles went 43 yards in just six plays. The 1-yard plunge by junior running back Herschel Sims capped the drive. Sims was the games leading rusher, with 109 yards on 21 carries. A bad snap spoiled the extra-point attempt.

The Roos' defense remained stubborn through the third quarter, only giving up a field goal, keeping Weatherford in the game heading into the final quarter. A pair of three-and-out possessions and an untimely penalty on a punt shifted the momentum back to the Eagles, who scored on three straight possessions.

"Defensively, they didn't do anything different [in the second half]," Wheaton said. "We just didn't execute as well. We did some things real well in the first half offensively that we just didn't carry over in the second."

Down 33-6 with just over four minutes left, the Roos pulled together to execute a 42-yard march downfield, scoring on 14-yard run by slotback Trooper Reynolds with 50 seconds left in the contest. Gentry's point-after run set the final score.

Weatherford's leading rusher on the night was Colton Kamper, totalling 73 yards that included runs of 26, 17, 14 and 12 yards around left end. The Roos finished with 220 yards of total offense, all on the ground. Gentry had 63 yards, including a touchdown and 2-point conversion.

Despite the loss, the Roos accomplished feats against state-ranked Abilene that had yet been done in district play. Besides the defensive first-quarter shutout, the Roos scored a pair of touchdowns, something the Eagles' defense has not experienced against Burleson or Paschal.

"We view this game as a learning experience, and take away some positives," Wheaton said. "Number one, we're not afraid

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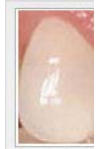
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to play good people. These kids don't back down. And number two, the kids played hard and with great effort.

"We didn't play smart all the time, but the boys refuse to be intimidated by anyone because of who or what they are. I'm proud of the kids staying in there toe-to-toe [against Abilene]. Our boys are mad about losing that game. That's the attitude we want and I think it will help us going forward."

Weatherford goes forward next week, traveling to Haltom (2-1, 3-4) to play the Buffs. Abilene is idle next week.

Abilene 33 Weatherford 14

Abilene 0 13 3 17 — 33

Weatherford 0 6 0 8 — 14

Scoring summary:

Second quarter

A - Ronnell Sims 15 run (Joey Renteria

kick) 9:10

W - Jaren Gentry 3 run (kick failed) 4:47

A - Herschel Sims 1 run (kick failed) 2:16

Third quarter

A - Renteria field goal 7:23

Fourth quarter

A - Tony Curtis 12 run (Renteria kick) 11:14

A - Renteria field goal 8:06

A - Herschel Sims 1 run (Renteria kick) 4:26

W - Trooper Reynolds 14 run (Gentry run) 0:50

Team stats: AHS WHS First downs 21 15

Rushes-yards 50-220 38-244

Passing yards 122 0

Comp-Att-Int 12-17-1 0-3-0

Punts-avg 1-34 5-32.6

Penalties-yards 6-55 4-45

Individual leaders:

Rushing - AHS: Herschel Sims 21-109, Tony Curtis 6-73, Ronnell Sims 9-58; WHS: Colton Kamper 7-73, Jaren Gentry 17-63, Mitchael Rucker 18-53, Trooper Reynolds 3-16, Tyler Henderson 3-16.

Passing - AHS: R. Sims 12-17-122.

Receiving - AHS: Darius Joseph 3-36, H. Sims 3-35, Parker McCay 3-31, Jarvis Hunter 2-18.



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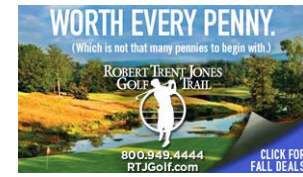
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