

Friday Night Football Frenzy



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Week One



Photo Credit: Tony Adams / Belton Journal



Lake Belton drops tough game at A&M Consolidated

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

On Friday night in College Station, the Lake Belton Broncos and A&M Consolidated battled to open the 2025 season at Tigerland Stadium.

The Broncos were bitten by the turnover bug, as the Tigers converted three Lake turnovers into 17 points as Consol took the opening night win, 44-17.

Lake Belton reached the scoreboard first, as the Broncos connected snuffed out a fake put by the Tigers and Long Chung hit a 30-yard field goal to give the visitors a 3-0 lead with 4:41 left in the first quarter.

Consol scored on a 70-yard

run by Amarian Moore, but missed the point-after try to keep a 6-3 advantage with 2:39 to go in the opening quarter.

A Bronco fumble set up an 8-yard scoring run by Calvin Brightwell. Radley King's PAT made it 13-3 Consol with 59 seconds to play in the first period.

A three-and-out on the next possession and 27-yard punt by Davion Peters gave the Tigers the ball at the Consol 43.

Moore's 40-yard touchdown scramble and King's extra-point extended Consol's lead to 17, 20-3.

The Broncos will take on Round Rock McNeil at Tiger Field Thursday at 7 pm to continue their non-district schedule.



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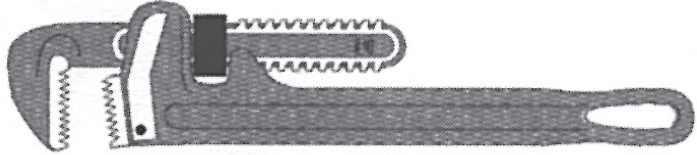
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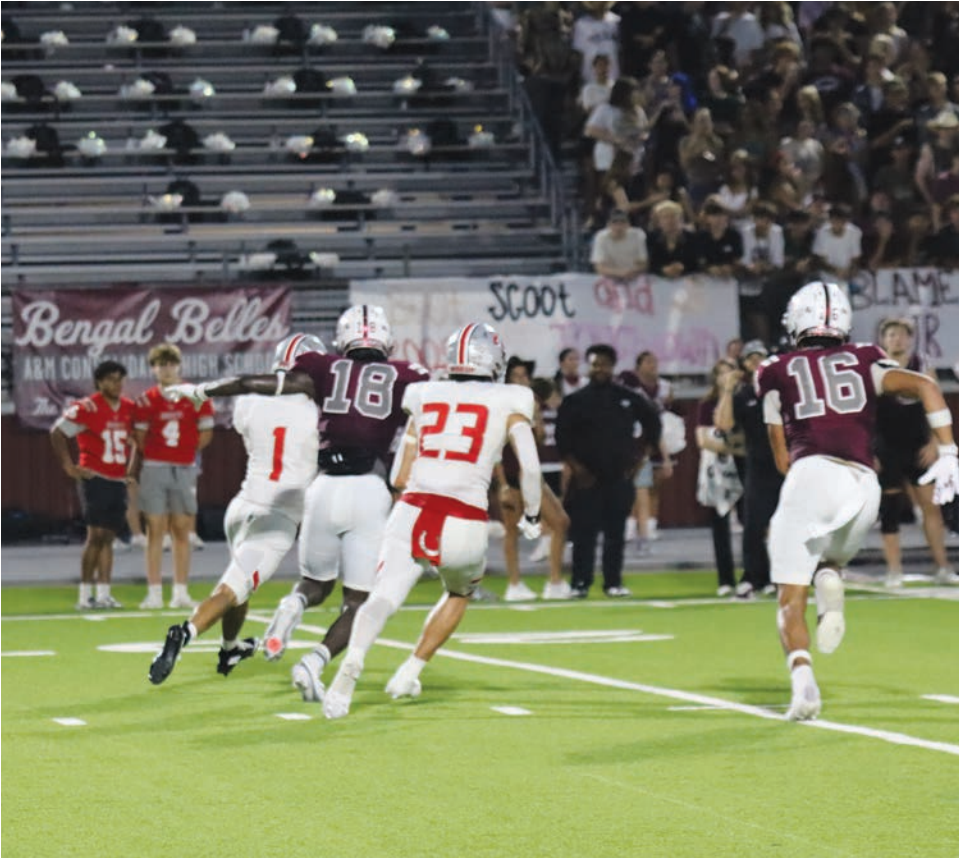
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Belton tops Pflugerville 21-17

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

PFLUGERVILLE – In the second half, Belton's defense gave itself an opportunity to win. Then, the offense ensured it.

After trailing Pflugerville Hendrickson the entire first half, the Tigers were in danger of falling into a double-digit deficit before their defense delivered three times — intercepting a pass in the end zone and forcing a pair of punts — and with 4 minutes, 53 seconds remaining in regulation, Belton capitalized.

Junior quarterback Will Shepard punched in a two-yard touchdown to give the Tigers their first lead at 14-10, and the score propelled them to victory following

one more rally.

The Hawks answered on the next drive with a 67-yard touchdown, but the play did not deflate Belton, and the Tigers engineered a game-winning drive, culminating with Shepard's 16-yard touchdown pass to senior running back Gino Zecca with 1:16 to go, giving them a 21-17 victory.




Belton earned a measure of revenge for last year's 14-0 loss to the Hawks with the outcome as Shepard completed 20 of 32 passes for 213 yards and two touchdowns, while junior receiver Gavin Ross caught a dozen passes for 146 yards and a score.

On the ground, junior running back Javier Planz carried the ball 21 times for 76 yards.

While the final result was in the Tigers' favor, things did not look promising early in the contest, which took some time to begin.

Lightning delays began affecting the game about an hour before its scheduled kickoff, and after a pair of suspensions,

Continued on Page 10

	
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players made their way to the field for warmups.

Then, with just five minutes until the game was set to start, another lightning delay literally sent teams from inside their inflatable tunnels back inside their respective locker rooms.

Approximately 40 minutes later, the contest began, and immediately, the Tigers were in trouble.

Hawks senior Trevor Morgan returned the opening kickoff 88 yards for a touchdown, giving his team a 7-0 advantage with only 12 seconds elapsed from the clock.

Belton responded by forcing a turnover on downs and recovering a fumble, but the Tigers were unable to generate enough offense to reach the end zone and went into the second period trailing by seven points.

Hendrickson added to its advantage on its first drive of the quarter as senior kicker Brennan Mercado sent a 35-yard field goal attempt through the uprights.

Moments later, however, Belton ended its drought.

After a Hawks' penalty on fourth down kept the Tigers' drive alive, Shepard found Ross for a 41-yard touchdown with 5:08 seconds remaining in the half.

The squads exchanged turnovers on downs in the ensuing drives, but Belton almost scored with time expired after blocking a

last-second 45-yard field goal attempt, allowing Azian Wilkinson to scoop up the ball and return it into Hendrickson territory. He could not cross the goal line, though.

Wilkinson also had an interception in the end zone to end a Hendrickson drive that began at its own 6-yard line.

Additionally, the Tigers intercepted a pass with 39 seconds remaining in regulation to secure the victory after the Hawks attempted to put together a go-ahead drive with time expiring.

Belton will look to build on its performance Friday, when it returns to the field, traveling to play Georgetown. The Eagles won last year's encounter 39-10.



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