

Friday Night Football Frenzy



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Week Ten



Photo Credit: Tony Adams / Belton Journal

Broncos play with heart against Eagles

By Aries Ramos
Belton Journal

Lake Belton's offense fought until the final whistle, but Georgetown's explosive attack proved too much for the Broncos to overcome Friday night as the Eagles left town with a 50-40 district win. Despite the loss, the Broncos showed heart, and flashes of big play potential in a back-and-forth contest that remained competitive deep into the fourth quarter.

From the opening drive, Georgetown set the tone with a fast paced offensive tempo. The Eagles wasted little time moving the ball, covering 64 yards in just three plays to open the game. Strong blocking helped set up a 19-yard touchdown pass to give Georgetown an early 6-0 lead with 10:13 left in the first quarter. After a successful conversion, the Eagles went up 7-0 and soon doubled their advantage.

Following a Lake Belton punt, Georgetown struck again with another efficient drive. This time, wideout Xavier Warren took a short screen pass and turned it into a 44-yard touchdown,

extending the Eagles' lead to 14-0 midway through the first quarter.

Lake Belton began to find rhythm on its next possession, leaning on its dynamic running back Zyien Dupree. Behind strong offensive line play, Dupree and quarterback Jessiah James



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orchestrated a 65 yard drive that ended in a touchdown. With under a minute left in the first quarter, Dupree powered into the end zone from five yards out to cut Georgetown's lead to 14-7.

Georgetown's offense, however, continued to roll early in the second quarter. The Eagles pieced together another long march, helped by a key penalty that moved them inside the 10 yard

line. Running back Jett Walker capped the drive with an 8 yard rushing touchdown, putting Georgetown ahead 21-7 with 9:55 left in the half.

Once again, Lake Belton responded. Using a mix of zone reads and quick passes, the Broncos moved the ball from their own 13 yard line to midfield. James connected with Davion Peters on a 50 yard touchdown strike, slicing the deficit

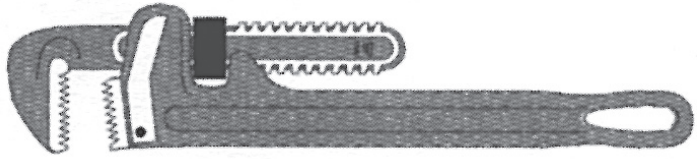
to 21-13. Georgetown answered quickly, marching downfield on a series of chunk plays before Walker found the end zone again from seven yards out to make it 28-13.

Even as the half wound down, Lake Belton refused to quit. James hit Zion Harness on a deep throw, then Dupree broke free for a 19 yard touchdown run,

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his second of the game, with just 39 seconds left in the second quarter. That brought the Broncos within 28–20 and gave them hope heading into halftime. Georgetown managed to steal back momentum before the break, connecting on a 35 yard touchdown pass with 15 seconds left to stretch its lead to 35–20 at the half.

The second half opened with Lake Belton looking to rally. After a false start on the first play, James found Luke Phillips on a 30-yard

completion to move into scoring position, but the drive stalled after a turnover on downs. Georgetown's next possession ended in a punt, and Lake Belton took over again.

However, back-to-back sacks and penalties slowed the Broncos' progress, setting up Georgetown's biggest play of the night a 48 yard touchdown run by Walker, his third score of the game. The Eagles extended their lead to 42–20 with 3:30 left in the third quarter.

But the very next play

reignited the stadium. Dupree took a handoff up the middle, broke a tackle, and sprinted 70 yards down the side line to the end zone for his third touchdown of the night. The long run brought Lake Belton back within 42–27 with 3:12 left in the third, giving the Broncos new life heading into the final quarter.

Early in the fourth, James engineered another scoring drive, highlighted by a 25 yard completion to Harness on fourth down. Moments later, he hit Peters for a 25 yard touchdown, cutting Georgetown's lead to 42–33 with just over seven minutes remaining. The Eagles responded with another long touchdown run, but James answered again, finding Harness for a 5 yard touchdown to make it 50–40 with 3:24 left. Georgetown ran out the clock from there to secure the win.

Dupree finished the night with over 150 rushing yards and three touchdowns. James threw for nearly 300 yards and three scores, while Peters and Harness combined for more than 200 yards receiving and three touchdowns.

After the game, head coach Brian Cope praised his team's effort and resilience.

"I saw a bunch of kids fight for all 48 minutes, clawing for every inch and every yard on both sides," the coach said. "I'm really proud of them. They left it all out there, especially our seniors,

and their character showed tonight."

He also commended the defense for their toughness against Georgetown's top-ranked offense.

"They're very good, the number one offense in the district, and I thought we made them earn every yard," he said. "The margin of error is slim against a team like that, but our kids fought. That's what I asked them to do for 48 minutes."

The coach also highlighted James' leadership and Dupree's continued development.

"Jessiah did a great job understanding coverages and attacking the right spots," he said. "And Zyien that 70 yard run, the way he finished it's just fun to watch him continue to grow. That's what makes high school football special, seeing kids improve every week."

With one regular-season game left, the Broncos remain in playoff contention.

"If we win Thursday, we're in the playoffs," the coach said. "We just have to learn from this one, have a short-term memory, and get better Monday through Wednesday."

Lake Belton will close its regular season Thursday night at Chaparral, where a win would secure a postseason berth and another chance to showcase the heart and fight that defined their performance against Georgetown.

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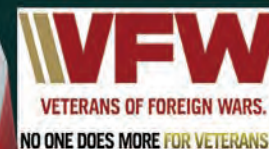
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HENRY T. WASKOW



VFW POST 4008

Belton's ball control offense big key in 42-18 win over Waco

By Tony Adams
Belton Journal

On a beautiful cool evening, the Belton Tigers hosted the Waco High Lions on Thursday night at Tiger Field.

The Tigers scored three touchdowns in each half, punted the ball once, and defense got stops when needed as Belton defeated Waco, 42-18.

"It's a scratch where it itches offense. We take what they give us," Belton head coach Brett Sniffin said. "They were playing the secondary

with all of their guys sitting back there, so we just ran the ball. The guys took care of their business and got it done.

The Lions got the ball to start the game but managed to gain seven yards in the first three plays.

Belton's offense took the ball at the Waco 49 on their first drive. The pounding runs of Gino Zecca, Will Shepard, and Gavin Ross behind the hungry Tiger offensive line set up Ross' five-yard run on an end-around. Corin Ramesar's extra point put Belton up 7-0

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with 6:16 left in the opening quarter.

Waco drove the ball to the Belton 25 on their next drive but came up short Oakley Torres and Alex Carpenter dropped BJ Whitaker for a loss on fourth and two to turn the ball over on downs.

The Tigers ground out the remaining 4:17 of the first quarter and had the ball with third down and five at the Waco 6 to start the second period. Shepard's pass when through traffic through the middle of the end zone and into the hands of Taylor Freeman for the interception and touchback.

Two plays in Waco's next drive, Whitaker was shaken up, left the game, and was replaced by Jordan Alvarez. Two plays later, the Lions punted the ball back to the Tigers at the Belton 32.

The Tigers drove 68 yards over the next 2:47. After two third-down conversions

and three straight first down conversions, Javid Nua Planz blasted into the end zone from eight yards out. Ramesar's extra point gave Belton a 14-0 advantage with 8:25 to play in the half.

Waco's ensuing drive included two fourth and one conversions, which included a 30-yard touchdown run by Lane Johnson. A two-point conversion run by Eric Taylor, Jr. drew the Lions back to within eight points with 4:23 left in the half.

The Tigers responded with a 44-yard drive that covered over 2:38. Following a 31-yard pass completion from Shepard to Ross, Cason Morton scored on a three-yard run. Ramesar's extra point gave the Tigers a 13-point lead, 21-8, with 1:50 to go in the half.




Carlos Rodriguez's 35-yard field goal to end the half pulled the Lions with ten,

21-11.

Belton went to work on the clock immediately upon having received the second-half kickoff. The Tigers capped a 61-yard drive in six plays and 3:22 off the clock with a four-yard touchdown run by Zecca. Ramesar's extra point put the Tigers out front, 28-11, with 8:38 left in the third quarter.

After both teams got stops in the next

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two possessions, Lv'Tamarion Marshall's 72-yard run set up Waco's next score. Alvarez's 33-yard touchdown pass to Zay'Drian Johnson and extra-point by Rodriguez with 3:25 left in the third pared the margin back to ten, 28-18.

The next two Belton drives were time eaters for the Tigers. An eight-play, 75-yard, 2:16 drive, with six first downs collected, ended with a Shepard two-yard plunge through a mass of humanity on the goal line. Ramesar's extra point made the score 35-18 with nine seconds left in the third quarter.

The Tigers' defense held Waco to a three-and-out on the next drive and received the ball back on their own 46. Belton took 11 plays, 54 yards, and

7:14 off the clock on a drive capped by a 30-yard touchdown pass from Shepard to Ross. The extra point by Ramesar gave the Tigers a 24-point lead with 3:58 to go.

Waco fumbled the ball on the next offensive play for a loss of 21 yards and could not escape the shadows of their goal posts, having to punt the ball away with 1:47 to go.

Belton ran three more plays to salt away the final 107 seconds to clinch the game.

The Tigers will take on Brenham at Cubs Stadium on Friday night (Nov. 7).

"It's going to be a tough ball game," Sniffin said. "We will need our best effort. Brenham is a great team and they're state-ranked."



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