

# Friday Night Football Frenzy



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Week Eight



*Photo Credit: Tony Adams / Belton Journal*



# Belton falls to University late, 33-27

By Tony Adams  
The Belton Journal

The Belton tigers traveled to Waco on Friday night to play the University Trojans in District 10-5A-2 play.

The Trojans' touchdown with 90 seconds to go was the deciding factor in University's 33-27 win over the Tigers.

Savoy Nichols' 29-yard touchdown pass to Jeremiah Green put the Trojans on the

board first. The point after try failed, as the Trojans remained on top 6-0 with 10:51 to play in the first quarter.

Belton answered with a 71-yard drive, as Gino Zecca's seven-yard touchdown tied the game. Corin Ramesar's extra point put Belton in the lead, 7-6, with 9:12 left in the quarter.

The Tigers extended their lead later in the quarter, as Will Shepard scored on a two-yard touchdown plunge. Ramesar's extra point increased Belton's advantage to 14-6 with 5:35 left in the quarter.

Nichols' four-yard touchdown run pulled the

Trojans to within two points with 2:49 left in the quarter. The two-point try was foiled by Oakley Torres, as the Tigers kept the two-point lead.

Shepard connected with Gavin Ross on an 11-yard touchdown pass with 10:46 to play in the first half. Ramesar's point after kick extended the Tigers' lead to nine, 21-12.

Darrius Thomas pulled University back to within a score with a three-yard run. Lyric McGinnis intercepted the two-point pass in the end zone and raced 78 yards before he was tackled, as the Trojans trailed by three with 6:45 to go





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in the first half, 21-18.

Javid Nua Planz came up huge on the next drive for the Tigers with a 38-yard touchdown run on a great block by Gavin Ross. The point after kick failed, as the Tigers led 27-18 with 2:33 left in the first half.

University's 42-yard field goal try at the first half horn pulled up short.

The Trojans scored two times in the second half. Nichols found London Smith on a two-yard touchdown pass with 11:56 to play in the game

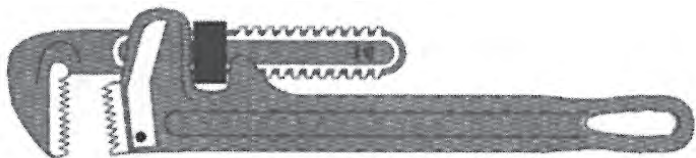
and kicked extra point to make the score 27-25. Smith's four-yard run with 90 seconds to go and two-point conversion run by Nichols made the score 33-27 University.

The Tigers bid to tie the game was halted by an interception by Green with 42 seconds to go.

"We shot ourselves in the foot in the second half," Belton head coach Brett Sniffin said. "Turnovers and penalties, We had penalties that costed us. We were driving to score twice and had penalties."



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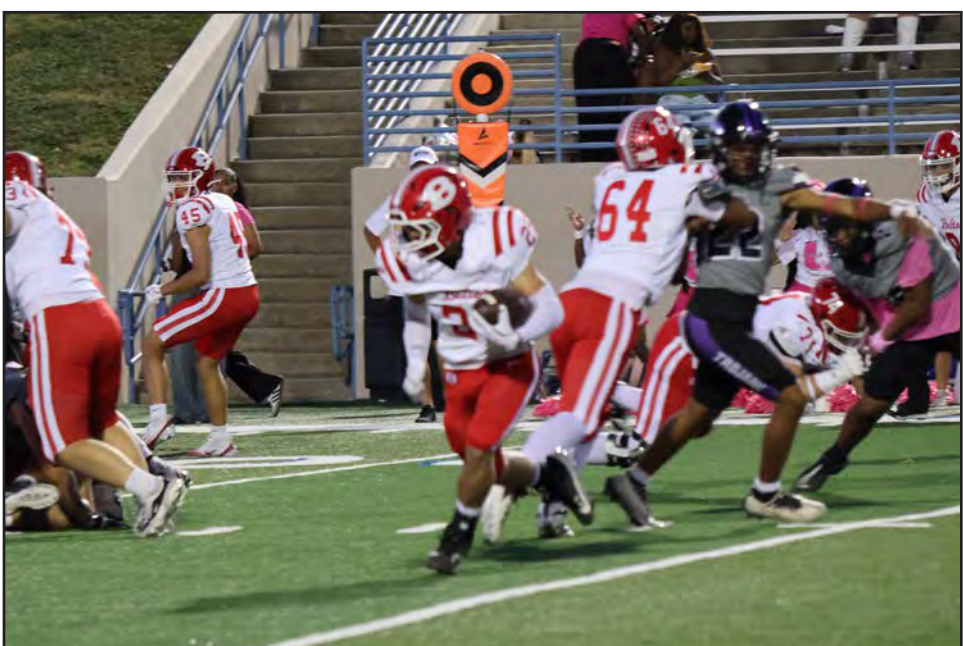
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# Lake Belton shuts out Leander, 45-0

By Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos dominated on homecoming night, shutting out Leander 45-0 in a statement win that showed how far this team has come in district play. From the opening kickoff, Lake Belton controlled the game on both sides of the ball. The defense quickly set the tone when Ji'yson Sherman recovered a fumble deep in Leander territory. A few plays later, Aiden Lassih drilled a field goal to put Lake Belton up 3-0 midway through the first quarter. The momentum kept rolling when

Reese rosenbaum hit Braxton Cope on a screen pass that went for 40 yards, setting up a one yard touchdown run by Davion Peter's to make it 10-0 late in the opening period.

Lake Belton's defense was relentless all night, forcing three turnovers and recording multiple sacks. Leander couldn't find any rhythm, while the Broncos' offense found balance between the run and the pass. In the second quarter, Zyien Dupree took over, powering in for touchdowns of 13 and 10 yards as Lake Belton extended its lead to 31-0 by halftime. Zion Harness added a touchdown catch

from Jessie James on a 25 yard strike, and Ji'yson Sherman came up with two interceptions to keep the Lions scoreless through two quarters.

In the second half, the Broncos continued to dominate. Zyien Dupree added his third touchdown



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of the night on a one yard run in the third quarter, pushing the lead to 38-0. Not long after, Jessiah James connected with Christian Onchwari on a screen that he took 55 yards to set up a four yard touchdown run by Arrington Alexander, making it 45-0. From there, Lake Belton's defense held firm, forcing punts and a late fumble recovery to preserve the shutout and give the home crowd plenty to celebrate.

After the game, head coach Brian Cope praised his team's effort and execution on both sides of the ball. "Man, they're doing a great job," Cope said. "We've made some adjustments, and I think it's really kind of sparked us. Our kids are practicing hard, they're playing hard, and they're playing for each other. It was a great opportunity for

everyone to contribute especially on homecoming night."

The Broncos' defensive intensity has been a defining trait in recent weeks. "Last week we had nine takeaways, and this week we came up with three more," Cope said. "That's a credit to how locked in these guys are."

Facing a Leander team that came into the night ahead of them in the district standings, Cope said the win was especially meaningful. "This district is tough every single week," he said. "It doesn't matter who you play, you've got to bring it every single time. I'm just proud of our kids. They're playing really hard, and we've got a lot of football left."

Cope also highlighted the growth of his young quarterback

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duo and their leadership under pressure. "I think they managed the offense really well," he said. "It's our job to put them in the right situations, and I'm proud of what they did. They feed off Maverick, and you can tell they're understanding more each week."

The head coach credited the offensive line and running backs for setting the tone up front. "Really proud of Zyien Dupree stepping up at running back," Cope

said. "He did a great job, and that's a testament to our O-line. They're coming together and playing well. We've still got big tests ahead, but tonight we'll enjoy this one."

With the 45-0 win, Lake Belton moves up in the district standings and keeps its playoff hopes strong. "We'll celebrate this one tonight," Cope said with a smile, "but come Monday morning, we've got to have our best practice of the year."




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VS Shoemaker Tiger Stadium Belton, TX

**Aug 29 / 07:00 PM**  
AT Hendrickson HS Pflugerville, TX

**Sep 05 / 07:00 PM**  
AT Georgetown High School Georgetown, TX

**Sep 12 / 07:00 PM**  
VS East View High School Belton, TX

**Sep 19 / 07:00 PM**  
VS San Angelo Central Belton, TX

**Sep 26 / 07:00 PM**  
AT Cuero High School Cuero, TX

**Oct 09 / 07:00 PM**  
VS C.E. Ellison Belton, TX

**Oct 17 / 07:00 PM**  
AT University High School Waco, TX

**Oct 24 / 07:00 PM**  
VS Rudder High School Belton, TX

**Oct 30 / 07:00 PM**  
VS Waco High School Belton, TX

**Nov 07 / 07:00 PM**  
AT Brenham High School Brenham, TX

**Aug 21 / 06:30 PM**  
AT Copperas Cove, Copperas Cove, TX

**Aug 29 / 07:00 PM**  
AT A&M Consolidated HS College Station, TX

**Sep 04 / 07:00 PM**  
AT McNeil High School Cedar Park, TX

**Sep 11 / 07:00 PM**  
VS Killen High School Belton, TX

**Sep 26 / 07:00 PM**  
VS Rouse High School Belton, TX

**Oct 03 / 07:00 PM**  
AT East View High School Georgetown, TX

**Oct 10 / 07:00 PM**  
VS Glenn HS Tiger Stadium Belton, TX

**Oct 17 / 07:00 PM**  
VS Leander HS Tiger Stadium Belton, TX

**Oct 24 / 07:00 PM**  
AT Cedar Park HS Cedar Park, TX

**Oct 31 / 07:00 PM**  
VS Georgetown High School Belton, TX

**Nov 06 / 07:00 PM**  
AT Chaparral High School Killeen, TX



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