

Friday Night Football Frenzy



October 25, 2025

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Week Nine



Photo Credit: Tony Adams / Belton Journal

Belton shuts out Rudder, 35-0

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers celebrated their 2025 Homecoming Friday night as they took on Bryan Rudder at Tiger Field.

The Tigers scored in all four quarters and held the Rangers off the board, as Rudder crossed midfield twice in Belton's 35-0 shutout.

With the win, The Tigers qualified for the Class 5A-II playoffs which start in a few weeks.

Belton held Rudder two yards combined on their first drives

The Tigers took their second offensive possession 46 yards in seven plays. Javid Nua Planz blasted into the end zone from two yards out. Corin Ramesar's extra point put Belton up 7-0 with 6:20 in the first quarter.

A personal foul penalty interrupted Rudder's deepest foray into Tiger territory. Belton's defense pushed Rudder back over to their side of the field, and the Rangers were forced to punt the ball away.

After a Rudder interception deep in their own territory, Camron Ellis' sack on third down and three at Rudder's 16-yard line set the

Tigers up for a 12-yard touchdown on a running back screen from Will Shepard to Gino Zecca. Ramesar's extra point made the score 14-0 with 5:15 left in the first half.



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An interception on the next play by Anthony Anderson set up the Tigers at the Belton 33. However, it was the following drive where Belton cashed in as Zecca scored on a 4-yard run, and Ramesar's point-after made the score 21-0 with 23 seconds to play in the first half.

Belton scored on the their drive of the second half. The Tigers capped their 75-yard drive with a 14-yard screen pass from Shepard to Gavin Ross. Ramesar's extra point made the score 28-0 with 3:54 to play in the third quarter.

With the catch, Ross became the single-season record holder

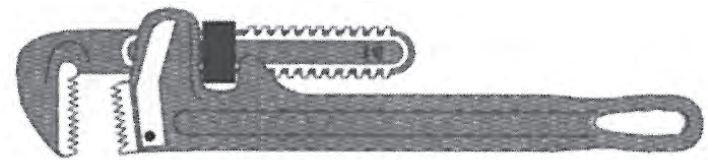
for receptions and receiving yards.

Planz scored on Belton's next drive, as he cashed in with a 17-yard run with 10:57 to play.

Belton's defense put the clamps on the Rangers' offense and came away with the shutout.

"We did exactly what we needed to do," Belton head coach Brett Sniffin said. "The offense took a bit to get started, but the running game was definitely going tonight. Too many penalties though. We will clean that up."

Belton will host Waco High next Thursday at Tiger Field in their final regular season home game.



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Lake Belton falls to Cedar Park

By Aries Ramos
Belton Journal

Lake Belton showed grit and flashes of offensive firepower on Friday night, but an early hole and too many costly penalties proved too much to overcome as the Broncos fell 49–21 to a strong Cedar Park. Despite the loss, the Broncos' young offense displayed impressive potential, highlighted by standout performances from quarterback Jessiah James and receiver Zion Harness, who connected for two long touchdowns.

Cedar Park struck first on a methodical opening drive, taking advantage of short fields and strong running from senior back Trae Hill. Hill's 5-yard touchdown gave the Timberwolves a 7–0 lead midway through the first quarter, and a defensive

stand by Cedar Park's front forced a Lake Belton turnover on downs near midfield. Hill quickly capitalized again, breaking a 41-yard run to set up his second score, giving Cedar Park a 15–0 advantage after a successful two-point conversion.

But Lake Belton's offense, led by the poised Sophomore quarterback James, wasted no time answering back. On the very next possession, James found Harness on a quick screen pass that turned into an explosive 76 yard touchdown, igniting the home crowd and cutting the deficit to 15–7 with just under four minutes left in the first quarter. The play showed the connection and trust between the two young offensive leaders and proved that the Broncos' offense could strike from anywhere on the field.

Cedar Park continued to rely on its

rushing attack in the second quarter, adding two more touchdowns, including Hill's third of the night, to build a 29–7 lead. But once again, the Broncos fought back. Dupree and Harness provided a spark in the running game, and James delivered a perfect deep ball to Harness for a 46-yard touchdown,

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pulling Lake Belton back to 29–14 late in the second quarter.

Even after Cedar Park answered with a 50-yard touchdown pass of its own, Lake Belton refused to back down. With just over a minute remaining before halftime, James orchestrated one of the most impressive drives of the night. Running a precise two-minute drill, he completed several key throws and used his legs to move the chains, ultimately finishing the drive himself with a 1-yard quarterback sneak as time expired. The drive brought Lake Belton within 35–21 at the break and showed just how dangerous this young Broncos offense can be when it finds its rhythm.

After halftime, the Broncos looked ready to continue their

comeback bid. Dupree continued to grind out yards on the ground, and James connected with multiple receivers to move into Cedar Park territory. But the drive ended abruptly when Cedar Park's defense came up with an interception, shifting the momentum back to the Timberwolves.

Even with the turnovers, Lake Belton's offense continued to battle. Harness made plays all over the field, including a 58-yard run in the fourth quarter that showcased his explosive speed. Dupree also contributed several tough runs up the middle, fighting for extra yards and keeping drives alive.

Defensively, the Broncos had their moments as well. Linebacker Caleb Chandler delivered a

key tackle for loss early, while Gavin Stewart and Even Lazott each recorded stops behind the line of scrimmage that stalled Cedar Park drives. Sophomore defensive back Braxton Cope added an interception in the fourth quarter, a bright sign for a unit that continues to develop depth and confidence as the season progresses.

Cedar Park ultimately pulled away behind Hill's dominant performance, as the senior finished with four rushing touchdowns. But even in defeat, the Broncos' energy, toughness, and ability to respond under pressure stood out.

After the game, head coach Brian Cope praised his team's resilience and the growth he's seeing from his young players.

"I thought we played a good first half," Cope said. "We had too many penalties, and that hurt us, but our guys kept fighting. We've just got to fix those things and be more opportunistic when we play good teams."

Cope also highlighted the play of his quarterbacks, particularly James, who threw for close to 250 yards and accounted for two scores through the air and one on the ground. "They didn't let the moment get too big," Cope said. "We've got to continue to grow. There's a lot of football left, and we're going to keep getting better."

While the scoreboard favored Cedar Park, the Broncos' offensive production and never

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quit mentality suggest a team still finding its stride and capable of competing with anyone in their district. With James emerging as a steady leader, Harness continuing to shine as a dynamic playmaker, and Dupree providing consistent toughness in the run game, Lake Belton’s offense looks poised for a strong finish to the season.

The Broncos, now 3-2 in district, return home next week for a critical matchup as they aim to get back on track and keep their playoff hopes alive.



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VS Shoemaker Tiger Stadium Belton, TX

Aug 29 / 07:00 PM

AT Hendrickson HS Pfield Plugerville, 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

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2025

40 50 50 40

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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 Killeen 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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