

Friday Night Football Frenzy



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Week Three



Photo Credit: Tony Adams / Belton Journal

Lake Belton uses big first half, en route to a 28-21 win over Killeen

By Tony Adams
Belton Journal

Thursday night at Tiger Field signaled a few things for the Lake Belton Broncos: their first home game of the season, Senior Night, and a big-time test as they hosted the Killeen Kangaroos.

Lake Belton scored all 28 points in 13:37 span in the first half and used the ground game to salt away clock while the Broncos' defense worked to eventually stop the Killeen run offense in Lake's 28-21 win.

"We held a very explosive offense to 21 points tonight," Lake Belton head coach Brian Cope said. "We are proud of that. We moved the ball well in the first half, and our offense sputtered in the second half. We will watch the film and get back to work."

In the pregame festivities, Cope and Killeen head coach Josh Sadler brought their sons to midfield for the coin flip. Ryne Cope and Gunnar Sadler were teammates in T-ball this past summer. Gunnar won the toss and Killeen deferred to the second half.



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The game started auspiciously for the Broncos, as AJ Arrington's first five touches went for a collective 27 yards. On second down and eight at the Killeen 48, Maverik Maddux's throw over the middle and was intercepted by Jamarcus Wilder at the 32.

The Broncos' response to the turnover was swift. Tavaris Miles was dumped on two incomplete passes attempts and sacked by Gavin Owens to end the initial Killeen drive.

Starting their second drive from the Killeen 45, the Broncos drove 55 yards in three plays. Zyien Dupree's nine-yard runs and Maddux's eight-yard pass to Davion Peters for an eight-yard set up the 36-yard touchdown pass from Maddux to Peters. Maddux's patience in the pocket allowed Peters to create separation for the score. Long Chuong's extra point kick put Lake up 7-0 with 7:15 left in the first quarter.

"Was very proud of Maverik, in his play in his first game back," Cope said. "He is a

leader, and the guys follow him. He is going to continue to get better week after week."

Killeen capitalized on a 48-yard run on fourth down and one from the Roos' 48. Three plays later, Amari Paige's one-yard plunge put Killeen on the board. Sergio Diaz's point-after tied the game at 7-7 with 3:31 left in the opening stanza.

Peters' 63-yard kick return set up Arrington's 12-yard touchdown sprint with 2:33 left in the first quarter. Chuong's point try split the uprights to extend Lake's lead to seven, 14-7.

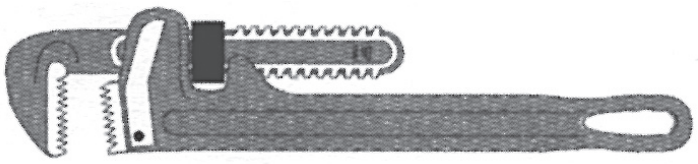
On the first play of the second quarter, Paige darted down the field for a 64-yard touchdown run. Diaz's extra point tied the game at 14-14 with 11:26 left in the first half.

The teams traded interceptions on back-to-back plays. Maddux had a throw over the middle gather too much air and it was intercepted by Khalil Cole. On Killeen's next offensive play, Miles

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was intercepted by Gavin Stewart, and he raced 50 yards to the Killeen 15.

The Broncos punched the ball into the end zone on Arrington's four-yard run with 8:08 to play in the first half. Chuong's point-after kick gave Lake a seven-point lead.

After Killeen went three-and-out on the next drive, the Broncos struck two plays into their next drive. Maddux drifted a swing pass into the

hands of Christian Onchweri. With great blocking from the offensive line and receivers on the left side, Onchweri bolted 57 yards for the touchdown reception. Chuong's extra-point extended Lake's lead to 14 points with 5:38 left in the half.

The teams traded punts before a critical error on Killeen's side led to Ji'yson Sherman's interception and 20-yard return

with nine seconds remaining in the first half allotted a 43-yard field goal try by Chuong. The kick pulled up short and to the left, as the Broncos led at the break, 28-14.

Killeen took the ball and marched 62 yards in seven plays. Miles' seven-yard run, and Diaz's extra-point split the margin in half, as the Broncos continued to lead with 9:05 remaining in the third quarter, 28-21.

Neither team came close to the end zone over the final 21 minutes. Both teams punted twice and had a turnover on downs.

The Broncos were able to grind the final couple of minutes away, as Lake earned their first victory of the season.

"I am really proud of our kids,"

Cope said. "They the bye week with battled against a 1-2 record. Their next action will be for 48 minutes to back on Tiger Field pick up the win." on Sept. 26 against Lake will enter Leander Rouse.



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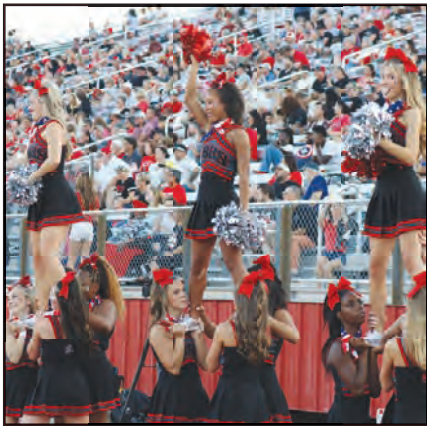
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Turnovers costly in Tigers' loss to East View

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Georgetown East View earned the win, but Belton beat itself.

Looking to start their season 3-0 for the second time in three years, the Tigers were positioning themselves to achieve the feat early, scoring 10 unanswered points in the first quarter.

Then, Belton began giving away its momentum.

The Tigers committed six turnovers and nine penalties before the final buzzer, and the multiple miscues were simply too much to overcome, allowing the Patriots to

escape Belton with a 24-10 victory.

Junior quarterback Will Shepard completed 23 of 33 passes for a season-high 302 yards, and he led the Tigers with 14 carries, but he also threw a trio of interceptions and lost two fumbles.

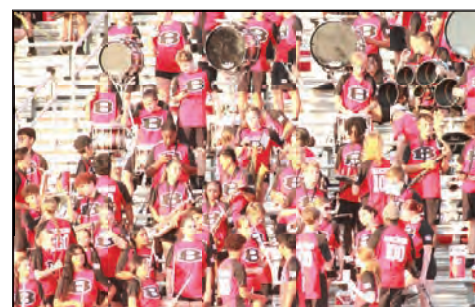
His first turnover changed the complexion of the contest as Belton experienced a tale of two halves before halftime.

Outside of a couple penalties, the Tigers were almost flawless on the evening's opening drive, punctuating the 72-yard march with Shepard's one-yard punch

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into the end zone with 8 minutes, 6 seconds remaining in the period.

Then, after forcing a punt, Belton senior Corbin Ramesar added a 25-yard field goal to the scoreboard, but things quickly began to sour.

East View responded with an eight-play, 65-yard scoring drive that concluded with quarterback Cormyc Guerrero finding Caleb Hill for a 10-yard touchdown, and a mere 91 seconds

later, the Patriots were back in the end zone.

On the first play of the second quarter, a botched snap on a punt attempt led to a dropped ball, and Sam Arnett scooped it up and returned the fumble six yards for a score, suddenly propelling East View ahead 14-10.

The Patriots padded the cushion as time expired in the half thanks in part to Jason Mehollin's interception that helped set up a successful 35-yard

field goal from Cavan Gonzalez.

Belton (2-1) finished the half with 228 total yards as Shepard completed 12 of 16 passes for 182 yards with junior receiver Gavin Ross responsible for six catches and 99 yards receiving.

East View had 153 yards at halftime.

Following intermission, the Patriots needed less than 90 seconds to cross the goal line with Guerrero finding Sam Williams for a

50-yard touchdown, and the 14-point advantage held for the remaining 22:28 of regulation.

The Tigers' second-half possessions resulted in a turnover on downs followed by two lost fumbles sandwiched between a pair of interceptions.

Ross finished as the game's leading receiver with 10 catches for 138 yards, while senior Asa Thomas (6-68) and sophomore halfback Cason Morton (4-52)

combined for more than 100 yards

East View (2-1) did not commit a turnover in the game as it beat Belton for the second year in a row, winning the 2024 encounter 48-14.

The Tigers will attempt to rebound from the performance

Friday, when they host San Angelo Central. The Bobcats are 1-2 after defeating Abilene Cooper 40-39.

This will be the fourth consecutive season the teams play one another with Belton's lone victory coming in 2023.




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Sep 12 / 07:00 PM VS East View High School Belton, TX		Sep 11 / 07:00 PM VS Killeen High School Belton, TX
Sep 19 / 07:00 PM VS San Angelo Central Belton, TX		Sep 26 / 07:00 PM VS Rouse High School Belton, TX
Sep 26 / 07:00 PM AT Cuero High School Cuero, TX		Oct 03 / 07:00 PM AT East View High School Georgetown, TX
Oct 09 / 07:00 PM VS C.E. Ellison Belton, TX		Oct 10 / 07:00 PM VS Glenn HS Tiger Stadium Belton, TX
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Oct 30 / 07:00 PM VS Waco High School Belton, TX		Oct 31 / 07:00 PM VS Georgetown High School Belton, TX
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