Friday Night Football Frenzy



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Week Four

21 VS 49

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Tigers drop home game with San Angelo, 49-21

By Clay Whittington

The Belton Journal

Belton put together two impressive drives to start the second half. It was not enough.

San Angelo Central made the Ross. lengthy road trip to Tiger Field on Friday looking to earn its second consecutive win in the four-year series, and the Bobcats constructed a 28-7 halftime advantage.

Following intermission, the Tigers reached the end zone on consecutive possessions despite losing their starting quarterback to an injury, but the damage was already done, and Belton could not recover, falling 49-21.

Belton only needed eight plays to cover 75 yards as

Achilles Palomares for a 20yard touchdown, and the Tigers followed with a six-play, 61-yard drive culminating with Harbin's 25-yard touchdown to Gavin

Each score, however, was matched, and Belton simply could not make up any ground.

Sophomore running back Johnson's second Zavvion touchdown — a six-yard run answered one of the Tigers' drives, and a 19-yard scoring pass from Micah Smith, a junior, to senior Colton Hill matched the other, leaving Central ahead 42-21 with 11 minutes, 54 seconds remaining in regulation.

The game's final points were

sophomore Sawyer Harbin found produced on senior running back Elijah Allen's eight-yard run with 6:25 left in the game.

> While two of the Bobcats' three second-half touchdowns occurred on the ground, Belton finished with negative 25 yards rushing

carries.

Harbin delivered through the air, though, completing 15 of 22 attempts for 153 yards and a pair of touchdowns after moving into the lineup for starting quarterback

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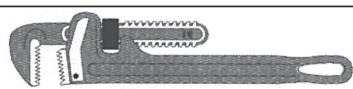








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the lineup for starting quarterback Will Shepard, who was removed late in the first half.

On the heels of their lowest scoring output of the short season — a 24-10 home loss to Georgetown East View — the Tigers found themselves playing from behind early once again, and it resulted in a 21-point halftime deficit.

After recovering an onside kick to open the contest, Belton (2-2) turned the ball over on downs following a brief drive, but just moments later, the Tigers regained possession thanks to junior defensive back Azian

Wilkinson's interception.

Another turnover on downs, however, led to the game's first points.

With 7:03 remaining in the period, Johnson broke free for a 27-yard touchdown. He finished the half with 42 yards on five carries.

Belton's third consecutive turnover on downs allowed Central to extend its advantage to 14-0 after Smith, who was 11 of 19 for 221 yards and four scores, found senior receiver Jimmy Edwards for a 60-yard touchdown.

The Tigers responded on

the ensuing drive, matching the Bobcats' one-play score with one of their own as Shepard and Wilkinson combined for a 77-yard touchdown, but Belton would not get any closer.

Central (3-1) needed less than three minutes to return to the end zone thanks to Smith's second touchdown to Edwards — a 19-yard strike with 1:49 remaining in the period.

The Tigers would punt before the quarter concluded, and the 21-7 cushion carried over into the second period, where Edwards recorded his third touchdown on a 13-yard pass from Smith.

Smith completed 7 of 13 passes for 128 yards in the half with Edwards accounting for 115 yards on five receptions. Edwards finished with 167 yards on seven

catches.

Belton's final two possessions of the second quarter resulted in a missed 40-yard field goal and a lost fumble that occurred after Shepard was knocked out of the game. He completed 10 of 17 passes for 164 yards prior to exiting, and the Bobcats took a 28-7 lead into intermission.

Ross caught 11 passes for 119 yards in the defeat.

The Tigers will look to rebound Friday, when they travel to play Cuero, which will serve as Belton's final tune-up before opening District 10-5A, Division II play versus visiting Ellison on Oct. 9.

Last year, the Gobblers, who improved to 4-0 by beating Corpus Christi Miller 56-19 on Friday, defeated the Tigers 30-28.











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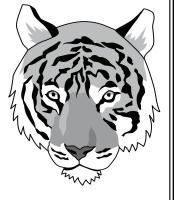








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