

Friday Night Football Frenzy



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Photo Credit: Tony Adams / Belton Journal

Broncos fall to Patriots

By Aries Ramos
Belton Journal

A furious second-half rally wasn't enough to overcome a slow start Friday night as the Lake Belton Broncos fell 49-36 to the East View Patriots in district play.

East View set the tone on the very first play of the game with their quarterback breaking loose for an 84-yard touchdown run just seconds into the contest. By the midway point of the first quarter, the Patriots had already built a 21-0 lead behind explosive plays from their backfield and a sharp passing attack.

Lake Belton struggled to find its footing early, turning the ball

over and giving East View short fields. The Patriots capitalized again in the second quarter when the running back powered in a 21-yard rushing touchdown to stretch the lead to 28-0 with 10:14 remaining before halftime.

The Broncos finally answered thanks to a spark from Zion Harness, whose 45-yard kickoff return set up a short drive capped by Zyien Dupree's yard touchdown run. After East View punched in another score late in the half, Lake Belton quarterback Maverick connected with Davion Peters for a 30-yard strike with just 37 seconds remaining, trimming the deficit to 35-14 at the break.





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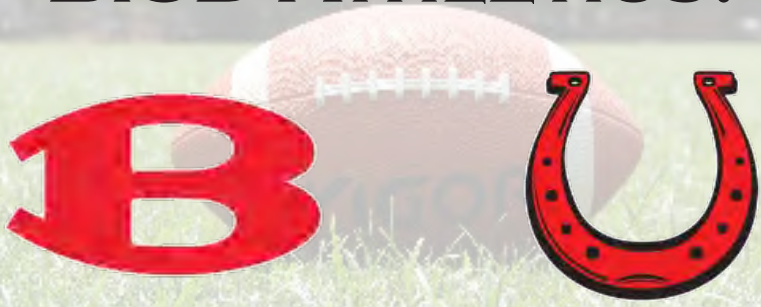
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Lake Belton carried that momentum into the third quarter. Peters struck again, hauling in a 37-yard touchdown reception from Maverick on the opening drive of the half, cutting the score to 35-21 and igniting the Broncos' sideline.

But every time Lake Belton closed the gap, East View answered. Patriots receiver Allen Blaylock snagged a 50-yard touchdown off a fake screen, and the lead ballooned back to 42-21 midway through the third.

Still, the Broncos refused to go quietly. Maverick found Brock Von Racjs on a 41-yard touchdown late in the third quarter, and backup quarterback Jessiah James helped engineer a final scoring drive in the closing minutes. A Lake Belton touchdown and two-point conversion with under a minute to play set the final margin at 49-36, a score Coach Cope emphasized could matter in the district's point differential tiebreakers.

"You can't spot a team 28 points," Cope said

after the game. "We didn't get off the bus, and that's on me. But our kids fought, they fought for 48 minutes. That two-point was big right there in the grand scheme of point differential, which is what this district might come down to. We've got to continue to fight, continue to get better. We're not a finished product."

Cope pointed to the resilience his team showed in the second half as a building block moving forward.

"At halftime, I told them we just had to keep battling," he said. "And our kids did fight. They do a good job. Their coach is an outstanding coach, and they found a way to win. But our kids fought, and I'm very proud of that."

The Broncos also found positives in their passing game and protection schemes.

"I thought we threw the ball well," Cope said. "I thought our kids executed our plan a little bit. We showed some really bright spots in pass protection, and defensively, I thought we continued to play hard and run to the football.

But we've got to get better at finishing when we have chances."

Cope also highlighted the performance of two-way player Christian Onchweri, who logged significant reps on both offense and defense.

"He's a leader, he's a battler, and I'm proud of him," Cope said.

The loss drops Lake Belton to 2-3 overall, while East View improves to 4-1. The Broncos will look to rebound next week when they face Glenn.






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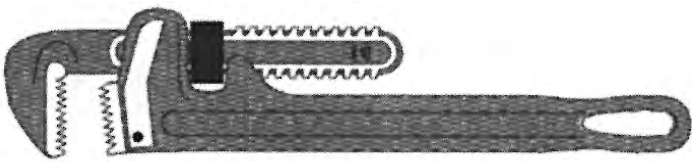
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Aug 29 / 07:00 PM AT Hendrickson HS Pflugerville, TX		Aug 29 / 07:00 PM AT A&M Consolidated HS College Station, TX
Sep 05 / 07:00 PM AT Georgetown High School Georgetown, TX		Sep 04 / 07:00 PM AT McNeil High School Cedar Park, TX
Sep 12 / 07:00 PM 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
Oct 17 / 07:00 PM AT University High School Waco, TX		Oct 17 / 07:00 PM VS Leander HS Tiger Stadium Belton, TX
Oct 24 / 07:00 PM VS Rudder High School Belton, TX		Oct 24 / 07:00 PM AT Cedar Park HS Cedar Park, TX
Oct 30 / 07:00 PM VS Waco High School Belton, TX		Oct 31 / 07:00 PM VS Georgetown High School Belton, TX
Nov 07 / 07:00 PM AT Brenham High School Brenham, TX		Nov 06 / 07:00 PM AT Chaparral High School Killeen, TX

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