

The Bandera PROPHEET

September 19, 2019

Bulldogs sting Yellowjackets, 40-12

By Chris Darus
The Bandera Prophet

For the first time in 15 years, the Bandera Bulldogs are 3-0 after a 40-12 victory over the St. Anthony Yellowjackets at Tom Benson Stadium on the University of the Incarnate Word campus Friday night.

After a scoreless, hard fought first quarter, Bandera got on the board just seven seconds into the second quarter with a 28-yard Blaise Salazar field goal.

St. Anthony answered with a touchdown late in the half, on a third and goal to go, but Tommy Cardenas blocked the PAT to keep it at 6-3.

Cardenas, Bandera's Special Teams Player of the Week, took the following kickoff 95 yards, crossing the goal line 12 seconds later and Salazar makes his first of five PAT's on the night, to give Bandera a 10-6 lead with 55 seconds left in the half.

Bandera opened the game up in the second half when Bulldog QB, Solomon MacNeil, scored on a 55 yard keeper with 6:43 left in the third and Salazar's kick makes it 17-6.

Inside the St. Anthony 20, MacNeil finds Mason Phair for a short

completion, and Phair runs over a Yellowjacket defender at the three yard line to score with 2:54 left in the third. Salazar stays perfect on the night to drive the score to 24-6.

St. Anthony scores on a 35 yard reception with 13 seconds left in the period and the point after attempt fails, to make it 24-12.

The fourth quarter saw Bandera add three more scores, the first via a MacNeil to Austin Abitz 33-yard reception with 8:33 left in the game and Salazar's kick makes it 31-12.

With the Yellowjackets pinned deep in their end of the field just 14 seconds later, Bulldog defenders Mason Musik and Gage Brown, combine for a safety when they tackle the St. Anthony ballcarrier in the endzone to make it 33-12.

Cardenas finds the endzone on a short rush with 3:29 left and Salazar's fifth PAT of the night is good, for Bandera's final point of the evening, making it 40-12.

Offensively, the Bulldogs were down just a bit from the prior week with 334 yards of total offense on 62 plays from the line of scrimmage.

MacNeil led the team with 115 yards rushing on 12 carries and added 101 yards through the air.

"People tend to key on Tommy (Cardenas) and that opens it up for us. We have five guys we aren't afraid to let carry the ball and in any formation, we will give the ball to any of them," coach Joel Fontenot-Amadee said.

Defensive Co-Ordinator, Manny Martinez, brought his "Wrecking Crew" defensive scheme to Bandera this season and the players have bought into it 100 percent. He has had success with undersized defensive lines at other schools and the swarming, get as many people to the ball carrier as possible mentality is a good fit for the Bulldogs.

Senior linemen, Emmitt Evans and Colton Perkins, were named Co-

Defensive Players of the Week for the second week in a row. The two anchor the Bulldog defensive corps that allowed just 151 yards rushing and 0 passing yards while recording three sacks in Friday night's win. "Coach Martinez really has the guys going on defense. We started a little slow, but give St. Anthony's credit, they executed really well in the first half. They had a good backfield and were faster in person than they looked on film. They made us come out and earn it," Fontenot-Amadee said.

Winning has been good for attendance as it is noticeable the stands have less seats available than in the last few seasons.

There will be even fewer seats available this Friday as Bandera hosts Comfort for Homecoming. The 2-1 Bobcats lost to Lago Vista last week, 20-10, and will be looking to knock the Bulldogs from the ranks of the unbeaten.

"Comfort is a good football team, they are kind of like us, they do what they do and do it well. We are excited, ready and up to the challenge," Fontenot-Amadee said.

Game time is 7:30 p.m., but you might want to get there early for the Homecoming festivities and hopefully, find a seat!

Bandera vs. St. Anthony

Box score

	1	2	3	4	Final
Bandera	0	10	14	16	40
St. Anthony	0	6	6	0	12

Bandera stats_

Passing: S. MacNeil, 5-14-101-1-2

Rushing: MacNeil, 12-115, Cardenas, 13-54, Brock Johnson, 3-43,

Gunnar Brown, 2-14

Receiving: Abitz, 2-54, Phair, 2-39, Trace Decker, 1-8

Tackles: Liam DeMarchi, 4, E. Evans, 4, Tyler Moore, 4, Gage Brown, 3, Garrett Meier, 3, Mason Musik, 2, C. Perkins, 2

Assists: DeMarchi, 3, Meier, 3, Gage Brown, 2, Gunnar Brown, 2, Decker, 2, Johnson, 2, Musik, 2, Perkins, 2