

The Bandera PROPHEET

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Bulldogs move to 5-1 with 21-14 win over Crystal City

By Chris Darus
The Bandera Prophet

Sophomore Alex Dirck caught two touchdown passes from Tyler Moore and the Bulldog defense held off a furious comeback attempt from the Javelinas to move to 5-1, (1-0) on the year Friday night.

Coming in, Bandera was 4-1 and on a four game win streak and Crystal City was winless at 0-5, but as it is every year, the pre-district records are meaningless when district rolls around and that was the case Friday night.

Bandera started slow, going three and out on their first possession and the Bulldog's Wrecking Crew defense returned the favor, forcing Crystal City to punt looking at a fourth and six.

A poor kick netted the Javelina's six yards and put Bandera on a short field at the Bulldog 44.

After working the ball downfield, on a fourth and two, the Bulldogs went for it, but the Hogzilla defense stopped Bandera short of the goal line, forcing a turnover on downs.

In the second quarter, a Bulldog turnover at the Bandera 28 gave Crystal City great field position, but Bulldog LB, Matthew Staton hurried the QB on a fourth down chance for CC to cause an incomplete pass and force a turnover on downs.

Bandera worked their way downfield and the first Moore to Dirck connection came at 1:46 left in the half on a pass into the left corner of the end zone. A missed PAT attempt kept the score at 6-0 for the half. In the second half Bandera's Ethan Rutherford moved the ball to the Javelina 10 and a horse collar call on CC moves it to the Javelina five.

The Bulldogs scored on a fourth and goal from the three and Dirck caught his second touchdown pass of the evening to make it 12-0. The two-point conversion was good as Moore found Luke Barnett all alone in the middle of the end zone on an apparent rollout to the right, making it 14-0 with 8:44 left in the third.

Kyle Morgan recovered a Javelina fumble just a few minutes later giving the Bulldogs another short field, but CC hung tough and forces Bandera into a field goal attempt that goes wide left.

Bandera scored for the final time on a Moore to Barnett 70-yard catch and run to go up 20-0 with 4:00 left. Muzquiz split the uprights to make it 21-0, late in the third.

The Javelina's scored twice late, the first on a questionable call that a punt touched a Bulldog player inside the Bulldog five. Crystal City found pay dirt on a four-yard rush up the middle and a bad kick kept it 21-6 with 4:12 left in the game.

Everyone knew the ensuing kick was going to be onside and the Javelina's recovered, looking at first and 10 inside the Bulldog 49. Another questionable call, a pass interference call against Bandera, that probably should have been offensive interference, gave the Javelina's the ball near the Bulldog 25.

Crystal City scored on a 35-yard reception as the receiver got behind the Bulldog secondary in the right rear corner of the end zone with 2:42 left and score on a two-pointer to make it 21-14.

Another onside kick was tried and recovered by Bandera.

Just to keep it interesting, an apparent 42-yard scoring pass from Moore to Brandon Miller was negated by a holding call, after Moore had to scramble buying time to find Miller.

On a fourth and 17, Bandera punted away with 1:09 left and the Wrecking Crew kept the Javelina's out of the end zone to seal the win. "We are fired up! Being 1-0 in district is the main thing. We came away with a win and we knew it was going to be tough to play in Crystal City. We usually win the fourth quarter and we didn't this past week. Our focus is to change that this coming week," coach Joel Fontenot-Amedee said.

Bandera ran 65 plays gaining 322 yards, 107 passing and 215 on the ground while the defense held Crystal City to 64 passing yards and 62 rushing yards.

This week, Bandera will host the unbeaten, 6-0 Carrizo Springs Wildcats on Blue Out Night.

“Carrizo is a very good team, one of the best defensive units we will see all year. They are coached well and they beat a good Devine team last week, it should be a good game.

“Its been a while since since there has been a game with a 5-1 and a 6-0 team playing here for a share of the district lead and we are excited. There might be some weather, but we will whether the storm and ride it out. I would love to have the majority of the town here Friday night. There are no restrictions or limit on the number of tickets that can be purchased at the gate,” Fontenot-Amedee said.

It was another crazy fourth quarter, but with the Wrecking Crew playing well and the offense on track, Bandera is 1-0 in district along with Carrizo Springs and Hondo.

“We were in a similar situation a few years ago when we played Navarro for a share of the district championship here. That was one of the best football crowds I have ever seen in 16 years of coaching. We hope this Friday will be the same atmosphere. There is no better place to play in the state than Bandera. If you haven’t been to a game in a while, come on out, the team will make you proud,” Fontenot-Amedee said.

Coaches and players would like the Bandera faithful to wear your Bandera Blue and come out and support the team. Kickoff is at 7:30, get there early and see what happens this week with Bulldog football!

Bandera at Crystal City

Bandera stats:

Passing Moore, 7-19-107-3-0

Rushing Moore, 19-125, Brock Johnson, 16-50, Rutherford, 1-27,

Barnett, 1-8, unnamed, 3-5

Receiving Barnett,1-70, Dirck, 3-17, Miller, 2-13, Johnson, 1-7

Tackles_ No defensive stats received

Assists_ No defensive stats received