

The Bandera PROPHEET

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Bulldogs fall to Wildcats in defensive battle

By Chris Darus
The Bandera Prophet

Coming into Friday night's game, Bandera and Carrizo Springs were two of the three teams tied at 1-0 in District 15-4AD2, and were looking forward to getting down to business.

When the dust cleared, the visiting Wildcats took a hard fought 18-0 win to become the only 2-0 team in the six team district.

The Wildcats used 5:17 of clock on their opening drive, but Bandera took over on downs at the Bulldog 40 after an incomplete pass on a fourth and seven.

Bandera responded moving the ball downfield with two first downs in a row and the Wildcat defense tightened up to force a Bulldog punt and most of the game would follow suite, until the fourth quarter.

The Beto Muzquiz punt found the corner and it went out of bounds at the Carrizo Springs six yard line, but the officials spot it at the 10. That set up the only score in the first half, a 90 yard Wildcat catch and run three downs later on a third and 10.

Bandera's Jesse Cardenas and Jorge Cabasos converge on the holder on the PAT attempt to force him to make a play and the missed kick it 6-0 with 2:38 left in the first.

The back and forth continued as Bandera was intercepted in the second quarter, but a Cabasos recovery on a Wildcat fumble on the very next play evens things up.

After a targeting call on Carrizo Springs, the Bulldogs work their way down to the Wildcat five and on a fourth and goal to go, a false start call gives the ball to Carrizo on downs.

The Bulldog defense stands tall and keeps the Wildcats from scoring on a desperation pass to the end zone that saw a 50/50 ball with both sides claiming possession. Carrizo Springs says its a a score, Bandera says interception. After officials confer, it is called an incomplete pass and Bandera takes over on downs after another pass attempt falls incomplete. The score remained 6-0 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Bulldogs work the ball inside the 20 looking to score, but fumble on the Wildcat 18. Bandera's defense keeps the Wildcats pinned deep to take over near midfield after a Carrizo punt. With no scoring in the third, it was still anyone's game and Carrizo strikes first on a five yard rush on the right side with 7:50 left in the game. The Bulldog defense keeps the Wildcats from scoring the two point conversion to keep it 12-0 with under 8:00 left.

Carrizo Springs was looking at a fourth and 35 after multiple penalties, punted away and Bandera was looking to score on a short field once again.

Another interception kills the Bulldogs chances and the Wildcats later score on a short rush and an extra point attempt fails from the 18, after another penalty, going wide left to keep it at 18-0.

"We didn't do enough to win, basically. We had a few mistakes and we didn't make the plays we needed to make. We had several chances to score. We had the ball inside the five, but didn't come away with any points. We could have kicked a field goal, but I felt that if you had to drive 95 yards against our defense, get after it. Later, we had the ball inside the 15 early in the second half and put the ball on the ground. It's a lot of little things, wrong decisions, a route ran wrong and missed protection on some plays. We dropped a pick six and dropped another interception inside their 15, like I said, it is a sum of a lot of little things. "I am proud of our kids, they walked away from some tough situations. Before, they might have not and gotten an unsportsmanlike penalty, but they walked away more than once Friday. That is a life decision that will stick around long after football," coach Joel Fontenot-Amedee said.

The strong Wildcat defense held the Bulldogs to just 184 yards of offense, 81 through the air and 103 on the ground, way short of the Bulldogs season averages.

Jesse Cardenas and Matthew Staton led the Bulldogs on defense and Luke Barnett is playing well also. The defensive front is playing much better all the way down the line.

“Our tackling this year is so much better than last year, that’s a product of the weight room and technique.” Fontenot-Amedee said.

Bandera will head to Devine this Friday to take on the Warhorses.

Devine is 5-2 (1-1) and beat Bandera 63-0 last year while rushing for 542 yards, on their way to going 4-1 in district.

Devine does run the ball well as evidenced by their 381-yard per game average on the ground this season and will test the Bulldog defense this Friday.

Devine drew Carrizo Springs in the first game of district this season and suffered a 33-26 loss to the Wildcats.

The Warhorses took out Hondo last week with a 33-14 victory.

“Devine is going to do what they have done for the last 20 years, the same thing they do at all levels there. They run the football well and they stop the run well, I would say South Texas power football.

I feel we have prepared well this week and we have a good game plan for them,” Fontenot-Amedee said.

With the Wildcats win, that leaves four teams at 1-1 and one at 0-2, so the race for the four places to make the post season is still wide open.

Kickoff is at 7:30 at Devine Stadium.

Bandera stats:

Passing_ T. Moore, 9-21-81-0-3

Rushing_ B. Johnson, 15-60, T. Moore, 9-40, E. Rutherford, 2-3

Receiving_ A. Dirck, 4-27, E. Rutherford, 2-14, L. Barnett, 1-14, B. Johnson, 1-14

Z. Quesnot, 1-12

Tackles_ J. Cardenas, 8, M. Staton, 8, L. Barnett, 6, D. Guerra, 4, K. Rodriguez, 4,

E. Rutherford, 4, L. DiMarchi, 3, K. Son, 3

Assists_ J. Cardenas, 7, K. Morgan, 6, M. Staton, 6, R. Chavez, 3