

The Bandera PROPHECY

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Cardenas has third 100 yard game in 24-14 win over Kennedy

By Brady Keane
BHS coaching staff

Junior running back Jesse Cardenas eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark for the third straight game as Bandera knocked off San Antonio Kennedy 24-14 at Edgewood ISD Veterans Stadium Friday night after a long lightning delay.

Kennedy had momentum early in the first quarter while driving the ball deep into Bandera territory before linebacker Daniel Freeman had a sack and forced a fumble that was recovered by Isaac Martinez. A back-and-forth defensive battle ensued through most of the first quarter from there before the teams were forced into the locker room for a lightning delay that lasted nearly an hour.

The Bulldogs quickly grabbed control of the game's momentum after the delay as a Kennedy safety gave Bandera a 2-0 lead. Riley Haley connected with Solomon Alexander on a well-placed 44-yard touchdown pass just a few plays later to make it 9-0 with 8:34 remaining in the second quarter, and the Bulldogs' defense held the Rockets scoreless through the remainder of the first half.

Bandera added to the lead early in the second half when the defense forced a turnover on downs near midfield before Cardenas broke off a 49-yard touchdown run to cap off a one-play scoring drive.

Haley connected with Alexander on the two-point conversion, and the Bulldogs led 17-0.

Kennedy scored a pair of touchdowns to make things interesting early in the fourth quarter, but Cardenas returned a kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown with 9:02 remaining to give the Bulldogs the momentum needed to secure the victory.

Cardenas finished with 17 carries for 102 yards and a touchdown to pace the Bulldogs' offense while quarterback Riley Haley went 8-13-102-1-0 on the night.

Solomon Alexander had three catches for 54 yards and a touchdown, Alex Dirck had three catches for 29 yards, Scott Perry had one catch for 14 yards and Cardenas had one catch for five yards.

Dylan Gherman led the Bulldogs' defense with 14 tackles and one tackle for loss while Freeman had five tackles, two tackles for loss, a sack and a forced fumble. Josh Goff had nine tackles and an interception, and Martinez finished with 12 tackles and two tackles for loss for the Bulldogs' defense.

Bandera improved to 2-1 on the season with the victory and will be back in action at Bulldog Stadium Friday night as San Antonio Cole comes to town. The Cougars are 0-3 to start the season with losses to Holy Cross, Pearsall and Goliad. Bandera will celebrate Veterans Night at Bulldog Stadium with kickoff set for 7 p.m.