



HOMECOMING AGONY

OAKLEY 30 COLBY 0

Friday's Scores

Oakley 30 Colby 0
Triplains/Brewster 52
Golden Plains 6
Hays 24 Goodland 7
St. Francis 30 Hoxie 14
Oberlin 33 Atwood 22
Ulysses 41 Pratt 7
Ness City/Dighton Quinter (PPD.Tonight)
Perryton, Tex. 52 Hugo-ton 14
Deerfield 66 Wheatland/Grinnell 28
Sharon Springs 62 Wes-kan 0
Smith Center 72 Stock-ton 0
SE Saline 38 TMP 6
Ellis 13 Norton 12
WaKeeney 8 Plainville 6
Phillipsburg 34 Hill City 6
Scott City 45 Larned 0
South Gray 26 Tribune 12
Northern Valley 26 Chey-lin 6
Logan 50 Eastern Heights 20
Jetmore 30 Western Plains 0



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Eagle quarterback Heath Stephens rushed around on the right side on this first quarter play. After rushing for 155 yards and three touchdowns the week before against Atwood, Stephens was limited to just 23 yards on 11 carries in the Eagles 30-0 loss to Oakley Friday.

Box Score

	1	2	3	4
Oakley (5-0)-	8	14	8	0 - 30
Colby (1-4)-	0	0	0	0 - 0

1st Quarter:
Oakley: Aaron Racette 20 run (3:05) (Kelly Younkin 2-point run good) 8-0

2nd Quarter:
Oakley: Aaron Racette 28 run (11:33)(Lex Parsons to Jared Sperber 2-point play good) 16-0
Oakley: Kelly Younkin 39 run (3:21) (2-point play failed) 22-0

3rd Quarter:
Oakley: Aaron Racette 32 run (3:42) (Kelly Younkin 2-point run good) 30-0

Statistics:
First Downs: Colby 7 Oakley 15
Penalties: Colby 10-70 Oakley 3-20
Turnovers: Colby 1 Oakley 0
Total Yards: Colby 136 Oakley 375
Passing Yards: Oakley 0 Colby 65
Rushing Yards: Oakley 375 Colby 71
Individual Passing: Colby- Stephens 4-11 27 yards INT Dinkel 1-1 35 yards
Ladenburger 1-1 11 yards
Oakley- Parsons 0-4 0 yards
Individual Rushing: Oakley- Younkin- 17-90; Racette 27-194; Parsons 8-58; Glassman 2-24; Maurath 1-9. Colby- Stephens 11-23; Tuma 11-16; Kriss 9-24 Stickel 2- (minus 6).
Individual Receiving: Colby-Parker 2-15; Miller 1-4; Robert 2-43; Stephens 1-11

Plainsmen spoil Eagles homecoming with a 30-0 win Friday

By: Joey Falkoff

Free Press Reporter
j.falkoff@nwkansas.com

A lighting storm that swept through western Kansas delayed Colby's homecoming game Friday with Oakley by 15 minutes.

Even though the lightning eventually passed over the area, thunder remained at Dennen Field in the form of Oakley's running back duo of Aaron Racette and Kelly Younkin who pounded the Eagles for 284 yards rushing and four touchdowns, leading the Plainsmen (5-0) to a 30-0 victory over the Eagles (1-4) Friday.

The 6-2 225 pound Racette showed why he is considered to be one of top running backs in western Kansas, rushing for 194 yards on 27 carries and three long touchdown runs.

Racette scored on runs of 20 and 28 yards in the first half, and added a 32-yard score in the third quarter to give the Plainsmen a commanding 30-0 lead after Younkin converted the two-point conversion.

Racette was a load for the Eagle defense all night long, and his third touchdown of the game was just icing on the cake to another outstanding performance for the all-Northwest Kansas League back.

"It was a fun game. Our whole team played solid," said Racette. "We were expecting a physical game from them and we were ready. The guys up front gave me some space to run. It was all about the blocking tonight."

Younkin rushed for another 90 yards and scored his only touchdown on a 39-yard run late in the second quarter.

Oakley head coach Randall Rath has grown accustomed to this type of performance from his two feature backs, but still marveled at the performances of Racette and Younkin against the Eagles.

"We've got some really good backs," said Rath. "Both Aaron and Kelly are as good of people as they are football players. We asked them to do an awful lot tonight and they came through. They're a coaches dream."

Along with Racette and Younkin, Oakley quarterback Lex Parsons



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Eagle head coach Chris Gardner addressed his team after the Eagles' fourth loss in five games this year. Despite the loss, Gardner still believes this team's best fotball is yet to come.

rushed for 58 yards and back-up running back Derek Glassman had two first down runs. In all the Plainsmen outgained the Eagles 375-71 on the ground.

Parsons didn't complete a pass all night, but the 304 yard rushing disparity proved too much to handle for the Eagles, who lost for the fourth time in five games this season.

"We're out there giving 100 percent effort, but we're not playing good football 100 percent of the time," said Eagle head coach Chris Gardner. "The kids are trying, but we're still having breakdowns. We knew Racette was a good back, but we've got to tackle better. That's two out of the last three weeks we haven't tackled well. Teams like Oakley and Sainty will make you pay."

After gaining 483 yards a week before against Atwood, the Eagles struggled to get in sync offensively Friday. Colby had just 127 total yards and seven first downs—three of which came on the final drive, when the game had well been decided.

Most discouraging was the fall off in the running game following

the 459 yard rushing output against Atwood. The Eagles three main runners (Tanner Kriss, Mitchell Tuma and Heath Stephens) combined for only 63 yards on the ground-- a far cry from the 317 they had last week.

"They're good up front," said Gardner. "We'll go back and look at the film and see where we can open up some holes."

"Our run defense has been our strength all year," said Rath. "We haven't done anything different than what we worked on at camp. We like to keep it simple for them and I think it helps the kids out."

Early on, it looked like the Eagles might be able to have success against the Plainsmen defense.

The 15 minute weather delay didn't appear to throw the Eagles out of rhythm, as the Eagles took four minutes off the clock and used nine rushes for 27 yards to move the ball to the Plainsmen 41-yard line. On a third-and-six, the Eagles tried a reverse to Ethan Stickel, but he was tackled in the backfield for a 7 yard loss by none other than Racette.

"It didn't fool us," said Racette. "We worked on their trick plays in

practice."

As it turned out, that would be the best drive for the Eagles until their last possession of the fourth quarter. Any confidence the Eagles had after that efficient first drive was shattered by the Plainsmen on their first offensive possession.

Starting at their own 25 yard line, the Plainsmen converted three third downs and took five minutes off the clock for their first score. Facing a third-and-seven from the Eagle 20, Racette took a hand off and went off the right side for a 20-yard score—his first of the game. Younkin converted the two-point attempt to give the Plainsmen an 8-0 lead.

The Eagles had one of their many three-and-outs on their next possession, and the Plainsmen quickly took advantage.

Three plays into the second quarter, Racette rushed up the middle for his second score of 28 yards. Parsons completed his only pass of the game to wide out Jared Sperber for the two-point play to push the lead to 16-0.

Colby went three-and-out again on their next offensive possession, but the defense picked up the slack,

forcing the Plainsmen into a turnover on downs.

Tuma nearly broke a long touchdown run on the next possession, but was tripped up after a 10-yard gain. Tuma's first down run moved the ball across midfield, but once again the Eagles couldn't muster anything else offensively and were forced to punt.

Kriss, who also punts and plays linebacker, pinned the Plainsmen at the 10 yard line, but it was to no avail.

The Plainsmen needed just five plays to march the ball 90 yards for their third touchdown of the game. The key play on the drive came on 29-yard run by Parsons on a second-and-eight. A missed tackle by cornerback Ethan Stickel allowed Parsons to get around the right side and move the Plainsmen into Eagle territory.

Two plays later, Younkin busted through the line and bulldozed safety Thomas Wieland on his way to a 39-yard score.

The Plainsmen held a 22-0 lead at that point, and had taken a late-arriving Eagle sell-out crowd out of the game.

Oakley maintained that 22 point lead at the half, but the Eagle defense tried once again to turn the momentum the other way. Kriss made a great third down stop on Racette for a 3 yard loss to force the Plainsmen into a punt on their first offensive possession of the second half.

The offense, however, couldn't hold up its end of the bargain and went three-and-out for the fourth time in the game.

The defense, which had been on the field for nearly two-thirds of the game, looked worn down, and it showed on the Plainsmen's final scoring drive.

Oakley marched the ball 80 yards in 12 plays, which included three third down conversions and a fourth down conversion. The Plainsmen were also helped out by two Eagle penalties, both of which gave Oakley first downs in third and fourth down situations.

After two relatively penalty-free games against Sainty and Atwood, the Eagles saw a lot of yellow flags Friday, committing 10 penalties

for 70 yards. That doesn't include three others that were wiped out or declined.

"That's one of those things where you get in a game situation and you want to be better at that," said Gardner.

Looking for any answer to slow Oakley's attack, the Eagles blitzed on a second-and-one, which opened a huge hole for Racette on the right side. After side-stepping linebacker Breck Arnberger, Racette was in the clear for a 32-yard score.

Oakley led 30-0 with 3:42 left in the third quarter, but Racette's third touchdown run and Younkin's successive two-point conversion would cap the scoring for the night.

The Eagles tried to evade a shut out on their last drive of the game, using a couple of trick plays to move the ball to the Plainsmen 29 yard line. The trick plays, however, could only carry the Eagles so far, and three straight incompletions by Stephens ended the drive and the Eagles hopes for avoiding their second shutout of the season.

"We knew Oakley was a heck of a team, but I don't think the score indicates how well we played tonight," said Gardner. "We just couldn't string anything together or make that one big play that we needed. We just have to be more consistent."

The Eagles will have one final tune-up before district play against an Oberlin Red Devil team that is finally healthy and confident after winning its last two games, following an 0-3 start.

"Every loss you feel hurt, but I'm not discouraged," said Gardner. "I know we'll come back ready to go Monday against Oberlin."

The 2007 homecoming game with Oakley is one the Eagles would like to forget. But despite the sluggish performance and a 1-4 start to the year, Gardner still wants to make this a season to remember.

"I tell you what, people before the season people said we could be 4-1, 1-4, 3-2, but we have to work on playing better football," he said. "Wins only count in districts. You can be 0-6 heading into districts and still make it to the playoffs. So we're not concentrating on our record. We're concentrating on peaking at the right time."

Triplains/Brewster thumps rival Golden Plains to improve to 4-1

By Jay Kelley

Free Press Reporter
j.kelley@st-tel.net

The Triplains-Brewster Titan High School football team dominated cross-county rival Golden Plains 52-6 in Winona Friday night.

The game was shortened by the 45-point rule. In eight-man football, when one team goes ahead by 45

points after halftime the game is called. Friday night's game ended with 8:44 left in the fourth quarter.

The Titans racked up 355 yards rushing and another 95 in the air on a 4-for-6 performance from Seth Carpenter. They allowed Golden Plains only 103 yards on the ground and picked off three Bulldog passes, allowing them only one completion for 2 yards on the night.

Golden Plains was able to move the ball against Triplains-Brewster's defense, but came up short on critical third and fourth down conversions. They had the ball first, but were forced to punt after three plays.

The Titans scored on their first five possessions, ending the first half with a 34-0 lead. The Bulldogs scored early in the first half, after

the Titans lost a fumble on their own 19 with 11:21 left in the third quarter. It was the first Triplains-Brewster drive that didn't end in a touchdown.

Golden Plains', Isaac Broeckelman recovered the ball on the 11 and Jordan Rogers ran the touchdown from the 1-yard line a couple plays later. The conversion failed.

Triplains-Brewster scored on an

8-yard run by Bryant Plummer with 3:56 left in the quarter and a 51-yard run through traffic by Carpenter with 23 seconds left.

The last score was a 14-yard run by Ethan Kammer with 8:44 left.

Plummer had 16 carries for 154 yards with three touchdowns. Carpenter had 12 carries for 153 yards and two touchdowns. Kammer had five carries for 40 yards and a touch-

down. Barrett had a single carry for an eight-yard touchdown.

Barrett also caught a 44 yard touchdown. Tad Sheets had two catches for 47 yards and T.J. Preston had a single four-yard catch.

Next action for the Titans of Triplains/Brewster is 7:30 p.m. Friday against Cheylin at Brewster. Friday's game with Cheylin will mark Brewster's homecoming.