

Cowboys beat Hugoton 38-14 Friday

Win sets up showdown with Colby

By Tom Betz

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The Cowboys got their second win of the season Friday beating the Hugoton Eagles 38-14, but more important the win sets up the showdown with the Colby Eagles on Thursday to see which team will make it into the Class 4A playoffs.

Coach Jonathan Dansel had been telling his team they had to win against Hugoton to have a chance, and was proud of the way the team played.

"We stayed focused," Dansel told the team as they gathered after the win at Cowboys Stadium. "We didn't play well after our early start, but we did play good defense. We gave up too many yards and had a shutout until we gave up a couple of big plays.

"I think Brandon Rome's interception and punt return helped us and he did a great job.

"I was very proud of this group of kids to be able to put the past behind them and get a critical win Friday to keep our playoff hopes alive.

"The important thing is we did get a win and some momentum going into the Colby game this week.

"This season is about a mirror image of last year. We are going into our last regular season game against Colby with the same record and the playoffs on the line.

"Colby Coach Chris Gardner has done a great job with his group of kids, and they want the playoffs maybe worse than us. They have earned some wins this season and are a confident bunch of kids.

"We are going to prepare hard this week as it is going to be a dog-fight."

The Cowboys came out firing on the opening drive and drove 70 yards in 11 plays with Casey Henderson scoring on a one-yard run to make it 6-0. Ren Scherling's kick made it 7-0 with 7:30 remaining in the first quarter.

A big play in the drive was a pass from quarterback Travis Angelos to Tanner Smith for 23 yards and a first down at the Eagle 24.

Hugoton took the kick off and were driving and converted a fourth down to get to the Cowboy's 23. The Cowboys defense stiffened and on fourth down Smith pushed Eagles' running back Caleb Gifford out of bounds short of the first down marker at the Goodland 16 with 3:05 left in the first.

The two teams traded punts in the second, and the Eagles put on



Cowboys running back Casey Henderson (left) plowed his way up the middle for the first touchdown against the Hugoton Eagles on Friday. Running back Fernando Martinez (above) broke free for a 14-yard and his first of two touchdowns on Friday as the Cowboys defeated the Hugoton Eagles 38-14.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

another drive just before half reaching the Cowboys 14 with 1:20 left. On fourth down the Eagles fumbled and the Cowboys Josh Doke recovered at the 9-yard line. The half ended with the Cowboys holding a 7-0 lead.

Halfway through the third quarter the Cowboys came to life taking the ball 64 yards in four plays with Angelos passing to Smith who ran 49 yards for the second Cowboys touchdown. The kick again was good making it 14-0.

On the next Eagle drive Rome stepped in front of a pass at the Cowboys 20 and returned it to the Eagle 23 before being knocked out

of bounds.

Two plays later Fernando Martinez followed his blockers around left end to score his first touchdown making it 20-0. Scherling's kick was good making it 21-0 with 1:48 left in the third.

The next Eagle drive stalled and they had to punt as the clock was running out in the quarter. Rome was back deep for the Cowboys and he broke through the Eagles for 65 yards, but was tackled at the 3-yard line.

Henderson scored on the first play of the fourth quarter and with the extra point the Cowboys had a 28-0 lead.

The Eagles took a page from the Cowboys and on the next drive Bubba Beltz intercepted an Angelos pass and returned it to the Cowboys 23.

Three plays and a penalty later Eagle quarterback Blake Trujillo passed to Brock Leonard for the touchdown. With the extra point by Andrew Allum it was 28-7 with 7:21 left in the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys drove down to the Eagle 27, but the drive stalled and a field goal attempt by Scherling went wide left.

The Eagles pulled out all the stops and on a flea flicker Beltz threw to Trujillo for 73 yards and a touch-

down to make it 28-14 with 3:36 left in the game.

Hugoton set up for the onside kick, but the Cowboys recovered it at the Goodland 47.

The Cowboys drive seemed to stall after an unsportsmanlike call that left them with a third down at the Eagle 32. Angelos kept on a draw and broke through the Eagles defense for a first and goal at the 7-yard line. Martinez punched it in on the next play. On the point after Hawkins took the ball and ran around right end for the two-point conversion to make it 36-14 with 1:35 left.

Martinez led the Cowboys rushing with 161 yards on 24 carries with the longest being 14 yards and had two touchdowns. Angelos had 79 yards on 10 carries and his longest was 38 yards. Henderson had 56 yards on 12 carries with his longest 16 yards and had two touchdowns. Hawkins had 9 yards on 3 carries, and had the two-point conversion.

Angelos completed 3 of 12 passes for 94 yards and one touchdown. He had one interception.

Smith caught two of the passes for 72 yard with the longest being for 49 yards and a touchdown. Martinez caught one pass for 22 yards.

At halftime the junior cheerleaders performed for the audience and a 47-member pep band from the University of Kansas performed on their way to the Big 12 game in Boulder, Colo., on Saturday.

The Cowboys will face the Colby Eagles at 6 p.m. on Thursday in the final district game and both teams come in with a 1-1 district record as the Eagles lost to the Ulysses Tigers 42-6 on Friday.

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School calendar for October 24 to October 30

Wednesday: Black Day. 8 a.m., High School Fall Clean up day. Noon, Regional administrators meeting in Oakley auditorium. 7 p.m., adult coed volleyball.
Thursday: Gold Day. End of first nine weeks. 6 p.m., varsity football at Colby. 7 a.m., parent and football team meal. 6 p.m., cross country and parent pot luck.
Friday: No school. Teacher professional day. Girls state volleyball.
Saturday: State cross country. Girls state volleyball. ACT test.
Monday: 8:30 a.m., Western Plains Arts Association in high school auditorium. 6 p.m., third to sixth boys basketball.
Tuesday: Black Day. 4 p.m., Eighth grade basketball vs Burlington. 4 p.m., seventh grade basketball at Burlington. Bi-district football.



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