Sports.

Cowboys win opener over Hugoton Eagles, 40-22

nt.betz@nwkansas.com The Goodland Cowboys opened the season with a 40-22 Great Western Activity Conference win over the Hugoton Eagles on Friday at Cowboy Stadium.

On Friday the Cowboys will play the Ulysses Tigers at 6:30 p.m. in Ulysses. The Tigers opened their season on Friday with a non-league 42-20 win over Liberal.

"Overall it was a great start for us," Coach Kent Teeter said. "We knew Hugoton would be better than last year and they were. Their quarterback ran the offense really well. They had pretty good team speed and I thought they played with a lot of confidence.

"Our defense came out a little bit nervous but really adjusted well as the game went on. We got some big plays from our special teams.

"Our biggest problems were too many penalties, too many assignment mistakes, missed blocks and tackles, and not getting lined up fast enough on defense."

Looking ahead to Friday's game at Ulysses Coach Teeter said, "Ulysses is really good. They beat Liberal 40 to 20 I believe. They have great experience back, a lot of speed and play really hard."

Hugoton won the toss and Cowboy Austin Avelar kicked off with the Eagles starting at their 27 yard line, but a penalty on the Cowboys moved the Eagles to the 37.

Suddenly it didn't look like a good evening for the Cowboys as Eagle Ross Davis took a pitch around the left end on third and three and went 49 yards for a touchdown making it 6-0. The point after try was no good and Hugoton lead with 11:09 left in the first quarter.

The Cowboys started at their 28, but had to punt on fourth and two.

The Eagles started at their 31 and Eagle Quarterback Cody Frederick completed a pass for a first down at the Cowboys 33. The Eagles ran for it on fourth down and two, but failed turing the ball over to the Cowboys

The Cowboys began moving the ball with runs by Garrett Taylor and



Cowboy Garrett Taylor tried to run out of a shoe tackle for a first down in the first quarter on Friday. Taylor led the Cowboys rushing with 74 yards of 18 carries. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Quarterback Reed Bellamy moved into Cowboy territory, but a false start moved them back and on the next play Frederick fumbled and Cowboy Tyler Gastineau recovered ing call on the Cowboys that pushed at the Cowboy 47.

Bellamy completed passes to by Dax Ruhs and Bellamy gave the Hillmer and Oharah for a first down at the Eagle 18. The Cowboys got a first down at the Eagle 5, but a holding penalty moved them back.

Bellamy threw a pass to the 10, and goal, and Riley Oharah scored but the Cowboys lost 5 on the next play. Bellamy threw to Hillmer on third down, but he was stopped at the 4 yard line. Avelar came out for a field goal and it was good to make the The Eagles were unable to move score 17-6 with 3:19 left in the half.

> The Eagles were down, but not out as they took the short kick at their 35 and Frederick moved the ball himself for a first down at the Cowboy 27.

The Eagles got a first down at scored, and Avelar added the extra the Cowboy 15 and took a timeout on second and five with 1:35 left. Miguel Degollado was stopped for On the next series the Eagles no gain on second down, but on third

down Frederick ran up the middle for the touchdown with 1 minute left. The point after was good for two-points on a pass to Isidro Mora to make the score 17-14.

The Cowboys scored two touchdowns in the third quarter while holding the Eagles scoreless to lead One of the Cowboy touchdowns

was set up by a great kick off return

by Ruhs and a 62-yard pass to Hillmer for the touchdown. The extra point was blocked. The second touchdown was a good run by Bellamy, and the extra

point was good. The Eagles made it interesting scoring on a pass from Frederick to Genesis Martinez on the first play of the fourth for a touchdown to make it 30-20. The Eagles tried for a two-

The Cowboys drove down to the red zone, but the drive stalled and Avelar was called on for his second

point conversion, but it was no good.

yards to make it 33-20.

Ryan Hillmer had a great night getting four catches for 103 yards and

a touchdown, and a great run back to set up a Cowboys score.

On the next Eagle drive a Frederick pass was tipped and intercepted by Cowboy Jason Cowan.

After the interception the Cow-Ruhs taking the ball to the 4 yard line and then scoring on the next play. Avelar's extra point was good to make it 40-20

With time running out the Eagles were driving into Cowboy territhe ball and Taylen Smith's punt attempt was blocked to give the Eagles a safety and making the score 40-22.

The Eagles had another drive after the free kick and moved to the them. When they scored first we Eagle 39, but Cooper Slough intercepted a Frederick pass to give the Cowboys the ball back with under three minutes left in the game.

For the Cowboys Bellamy hit nine big to get the 2 field goals."

field goal try and he hit it from 33 of 14 passes for 192 yards and two touchdowns. Bellamy's long was the 62 yard touchdown to Hillmer.

Rushing for the Cowboys Taylor led with 74 yards on 18 carries. Rush had 60 yards on 11 carries. boys marched down the field with Bellamy had 27 yards on six carries Oharah had 11 yards on seven carries and Gastineau had 7 yards on one carry.

Receiving Hillmer led the Cowboys with four catches for 103 yards. Oharah had two for 39 yards, Smith tory. The Cowboys could not move had two for 36 yards and Avelar had one for 14 yards.

> Here are some things that I thought were really good Coach

"No Turnovers on us and 5 on didn't panic. We went down and scored. We came out really good to start the third quarter. We got good kick returns most of the night. It was

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the ball to the 46 for a first down.

Bellamy passed to Ryan Hillmer at

the Hugoton 21. There was a hold-

them back to the Eagles 30. Runs

Cowboys a third and one at the end

Bellamy opened the second quar-

ter with a pass to Avelar for a first

the touchdown on the next play.

Avelar's extra point was good giv-

ing the Cowboys a slim 7-6 lead

the ball and had to punt. The Cow-

boys Avelar blocked the punt by

Eagle Jeison Rodriguez and Cy

Paxton recovered the ball taking it to

the Eagles 4 yard line. Riley Oharah

point to make it 14-6 with the Cow-

boys scoring twice in one minute.

with 11:33 left in the half.

of the first quarter.

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