

Cowboys loss to Panthers sets up showdown

By Tom Betz
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The Cowboys let the Phillipsburg Panthers get an early lead, and were never able to close the gap on Friday to lose 35-21 and set up a showdown at 6 p.m. on Thursday against Thomas More-Prep at Cowboy Stadium.

Goodland's loss to the Panthers dropped their district record to 1-1 and gave the Panthers a 2-0 margin going into their game with Norton. The Monarchs managed to defeat Norton 20-19 on Friday and have a 1-1 record in district play.

"Win we're in, lose we're out," is the simple truth Coach Kent Teeter said after the game on Friday.

A win on Thursday means the Cowboys are in the playoffs as the No. 2 seed from the district, but if they lose that is the end of their season.

Coach Teeter said it will be a short week as the Cowboys begin preparing for the Monarchs on Sunday. This is similar to last year's situation when the Cowboys had to travel to Hays to play the Monarchs and with a win, 54-13, clinched a playoff spot for the first time under Coach Teeter.

Cowboys fans are being asked to wear pink to the game in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. The program "Cowboys for the Cure" is sponsored by Goodland Regional Medical Center and a portion of the proceeds go to fight breast cancer.

For the fourth week the Cowboys had a runner gain over 100 yards, but unlike the previous three the Cowboys were on the losing end. Panthers quarterback Sean Newlan was almost a one-man wrecking crew, running for three touchdowns and throwing for a fourth. Newlan had runs of 35, 52 and 40 yards for his touchdowns and threw a 34 yard pass to Seth Derr for a fourth touchdown.

"We needed to make plays, but we did not get it done," Teeter said. "We knew Newlan was a good player. I was disappointed we gave up as many big plays, but have to give them credit for breaking some tackles."

"We have to win on Thursday to go to the playoffs. It is hard coming off a loss, but the important thing I tell the boys is you have to enjoy playing the game. For the seniors, it is in their hands. It is all about attitude."

"The fourth and 14 touchdown was a dagger when we had them stopped."

"Our guys never quit. They have a lot of heart and am sure we will be ready to play."

The Panthers took the opening kickoff and in six plays Newlan ran 35 yards for his first touchdown with 2:30 gone in the first quarter to make it 7-0.

On the kickoff Cowboy Dax Ruhs got some great blocking to return to the Panther 40. Cowboy quarterback Reed Bellamy was sacked back at the Cowboy 44, forcing the Cowboys to punt.

The Cowboys stopped the Panthers, and Newlan punted to Ryan Hillmer who returned the ball to the Cowboy 24.

Before the game Coach Teeter said both Ruhs and Cy Paxton would carry the ball.



Cowboy Dax Ruhs carried four times early in the game against Norton, but went out with a rib injury. He came back on Friday to carry 24 times against Phillipsburg for 116 yards, but the Cowboys lost 35-21. Ruhs and the Cowboys will look to win on Thursday to make it to the playoffs. The game is at 6 p.m. at Cowboy Stadium. Fans are asked to wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Photo by Dick Boyd/The Norton Telegram

Paxton came in to replace Ruhs and on two carries got a first down at the 35. Bellamy passed 18 yards on third down to Austin Avelar for a first down at the Panther 43.

Ruhs was back in and ran down to the 35 for eight yards. Riley Oharah carried for a first down at the 33. The Panthers put pressure on Bellamy and dropped him for two sacks to make it third and 21 as the quarter ended. Bellamy threw to Avelar who was dropped inside the Panther 40. The Cowboys went for it on fourth, but the pass was over Blaine Luther to give the ball back to the Panthers.

The Panthers moved the ball on runs by Newlan, Ross Coomes and Matt Schneider to a first down at the Cowboy 20. The Cowboys' defense stiffened and on fourth and eight the Panthers tried a 36 yard field goal by Riley Junemann, but it was wide right.

The Cowboys moved the ball for a first down at the 36, but the drive stalled and Taylen Smith punted, giving the Panthers the ball at their 25 after a block in the back penalty.

With a second and five at the 48 Newlan kept, and made a couple of Cowboys miss as he was off for a 52-yard touchdown with 3:52 left in the half. The drive was four plays for 74 yards and with the kick Phillipsburg led 14-0.

The Cowboys got the ball at their 22 and Bellamy passed to Avelar for a first down at the 33. On third and 10 a roughing the passer penalty gave Goodland a first down at the 48. A second penalty on the Panthers gave the Cowboys a first down at the Panther 36.

Ruhs ran inside down to a first down at the 19 with under one minute left.

On third and nine with 32 seconds left Bellamy rolled out to throw, but his pass was intercepted by Newlan at the seven and returned to the nine. The Panthers tried one pass and then Newlan knelt down to run out the clock leading 14-0.

The Cowboys had two long drives in the first half, but were not able to get any points. Phillipsburg had 186 yards rushing while the Cowboys had 71 yards with 36 yards passing and all three catches by Avelar.

Newlan had six carries for 113 yards.

Goodland got the ball to start the second half and Avelar returned the kick from the nine out to the 34.

On five runs by Ruhs the Cowboys moved down for a first down at the Panther 29. Ruhs had seemed a bit tentative on his first carries, coming off his rib injury from the Norton game. But in the third quarter he was back to running as he had against Colby.

Bellamy passed to Smith for a first down at the 4. Paxton came in for a play, but only gained one yard. Ruhs came back in and down to the eight. Bellamy threw to Smith for a first and goal at the Panther four. It took two carries for Ruhs to score, making it 14-7 with Avelar's extra point with 4:59 left in the quarter.

The Cowboys had gone 66 yards in 13 plays and took 7:01 to cut the Panther lead in half. The Cowboys had converted at least two third downs with passes to Smith plus the running of Ruhs.

The Panthers started at their own eight, but were able to move down to the Cowboys 34 before the drive appeared to stall. Facing

fourth and 14 on the 34 the Panthers pulled out a pistol formation and Newlan passed to Derr for a touchdown to give the Panthers back their two touchdown lead. The extra point was good making it 21-7 with 36 seconds left in the third. The Panthers had driven 92 yards in 10 plays in 4:10.

The Panthers tried an onside kick but Tyler Gastineau covered it at the Cowboy 39.

Ruhs ran for 20 yards for a first down at the Panther 41 putting him over 100 yards rushing for the game early in the fourth quarter. The Cowboys stalled and on fourth and nine Bellamy was sacked at the 44 to give the ball back to the Panthers.

The Cowboys stopped the Panthers and got the ball back at their 28 with 5:30 left.

Ruhs ran for a first down at the 39 and on fourth and 12 the pass to Hillmer was no good, but a personal foul on the Panthers gave the Cowboys a first down at the Panther 46. Bellamy threw to Hillmer who caught the pass and went out of bounds at the Panther 41. On the next play Bellamy looked to pass, but took off running and went 41 yards for the touchdown. He ran through several people and was able to keep his balance at the six to score. The point after was good, making it 21-14 with 3:22 left.

The Cowboys had to try the onside kick, but Schneider recovered it at the Panther 44.

Three plays later Newlan got free again and ran 40 yards for the touchdown to make it 28-14 with 2:50 left.

The Cowboys got the ball back looking to score quickly and Bellamy hit Luther for a 21 yard pass and a first down. He threw to Hillmer who went out of bounds at the 45. On second and five Bellamy threw to Luther, who broke free for a 55 yard touchdown and extra point that cut the margin to 28-21. It took the Cowboys three plays to go 80 yards in 25 seconds.

Goodland again had to try the onside kick, but Schneider recovered it at the Panther 45. With the clock running down the Panthers drove 55 yards in three plays for their final score to make it 35-21. Schneider broke through for a 33 yard run to score with 48 seconds left.

The Cowboys had to try a long pass from the 14, but the pass was intercepted at mid-field and the Panthers ran out the clock for their 35-21 win.

The pre-game on KKCI 102.5 FM will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. This will be the last game for the seniors and all those from the fall sports will be honored.

The Cowboys are 4-4 for the season.

Bellamy hit 10 of 21 passes for 192 yards with the longest the 55 yard strike to Luther for the touchdown. With the sack yardage Bellamy had nine carries for 11 yards, but his longest was 41 yards for a touchdown.

Ruhs had 116 yards on 24 carries and Paxton had four carries for 15 yards.

Avelar caught three passes for 35 yards, Hillmer two for nine yards, Luther three for 131 yards and one touchdown and Smith two catches for 12 yards on two crucial third down plays.

School calendar for OCT. 25-NOV. 1

Goodland High School • Grant Junior High School
West Elementary School • Central Elementary School

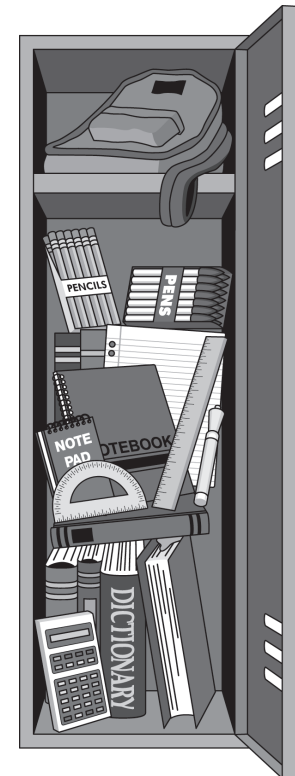


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Wednesday: Black day
District FCCLA Fall Convention in Hill City
Thursday: Gold day
6 p.m.: Varsity Football, here, versus TMP-Marian
Friday: NO SCHOOL
8 a.m.: Parent/Teacher Conference
Girls State Volleyball
Saturday: State Cross Country
Girls State Volleyball
9 a.m.: Mustang Wrestling Invitational, here
Monday: Black day
Halloween
Tuesday: Gold day



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