

Broncos remain undefeated, take out Sioux Co. 39-28

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 27 September 2012 17:05 -



Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze

Jacob Maris, with ball, looks for a receiver downfield. Teammates Hayden Pollmann (86), Weylin Davis (31) and Wes Anderjaska (right) provide blocking.

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauenta-Palisade Broncos capitalized on TWO Sioux County turnovers and a penalty to defeat the unbeaten Warriors 39-28 at home Friday afternoon.

The Bronco defense earned a three and out on the Warriors' first possession of the game, but the ensuing punt bounced off the back of blocker Jacob Maris and ended up in the hands of Sioux County.

The Warriors capitalized on the Broncos ONLY turnover on the day and scored two plays later to take a 8-0 lead.

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Sioux County had little time to celebrate as Connor Kayton fielded the kickoff and returned it 71 yards for a touchdown.

After forcing another Warrior punt, Wauneta-Palisade drove to the Sioux County 21 before consecutive incomplete passes derailed the Bronco offense.

Sioux County took advantage and ran in a touchdown with 8:11 left in the first half. The kick hit the goal post to make the score 14-8.

Despite driving to the Warrior three-yard line the Broncos were unable to put any more points on the board in the first half while also holding Sioux County to 14 total points.

The Broncos stuck to the ground in the first half, only throwing five times and completing two.

At the start of the second half Bronco fans may have thought it was going to be the same with Jack McGraw up the middle and Connor Kayton around the end type of offense after Wauneta-Palisade went three and out on its first possession and let Sioux County score two plays later.

But after spotting the Warriors a 22-8 lead it was a totally different offense in the second half.

“Our athletes really handled adversity well,” said co-coach Randy Geier

Wauneta-Palisade started with decent field position off of the kickoff most of the game as Sioux County used squib kicks to nullify Kayton’s return ability.

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Starting at its own 34, the Broncos, after one incompleteness, completed three straight passes and scored when Jacob Maris found Hayden Pollmann in the west corner of the south end zone.

Momentum continued to build for the Broncos when Maris picked off a Garrett Gray pass on the Warriors' second play of its possession and Wauneta-Palisade quickly took over on its own 31. Four pass plays later--two complete, two incomplete--Logan Bischoff dove into the end zone off a pass from Maris. Gaining a 24-22 lead, the Broncos never trailed again.

Bad luck continued to plague the Warriors. On the first play of its next possession the Broncos pounced on a Jonny Dunn fumble at the Sioux County 15-yard line. On the following play Maris once again found Pollmann in the end zone, this time the east corner of the south end zone.

After both teams had a possession when they failed to move the ball, Sioux County marched down the field and punched the ball in from the one-yard line. Bischoff blocked the extra point to keep the Broncos ahead 31-28.

"Coach Joseph Frecks and I told our guys all week this would be a four quarter game," commented Geier

Another squib kick set the Broncos up with good field position near midfield. Three straight completions from Maris to Bischoff, Kayton and Wes Anderjaska moved the ball inside the Sioux County 20-yard line where the drive stalled. The Warriors took over and with five straight runs moved the ball to the Bronco 11-yard line where the Wauneta-Palisade defense clamped down and held on fourth and one.

With four minutes left in the game the Broncos continued to go to the air. A pass interference call on third and eight kept the Broncos moving down the field. Completions of seven and 25 yards to Anderjaska, an 11-yard run by McGraw and a four-yard run by Kayton set up the Broncos with first and goal with just over two minutes left in the game. Three plays later Kayton scored from the Sioux County three. The Bischoff kick gave the Broncos a 39-28 lead.

Sioux County moved the ball to the Wauneta-Palisade 10-yard line, but two straight

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incompletions, one a dropped pass, stalled the drive and Maris took a knee for three plays to end the game.

“As coaches, we feel like it was another total team effort,” said Geier. “Sioux County has a very good football team.”

With the win the Broncos move to the top of the ratings in the Lincoln Journal Star and sit second, behind Silver Lake, in the Omaha World Herald rankings.

Maywood will visit the Broncos Friday for Homecoming with kickoff at 6:00 p.m. MT/7:00 CT.