Quarterback Lorenzo Cavanaugh hands the ball off to Joseph Sramek in the second half. Blocking for Sramek are Gage Crowel (72), Cody Hicks (75), Tyler Carl (83) and Chase Rathe (45). The second string offense played all of the second half.

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

With a bye week coming up, a 52-14 Homecoming win over Maywood Friday gave coaches Joseph Frecks and Randy Geier a chance to rest starters heading into the final stretch of the season coming up.

The Broncos could do no wrong in the first half. On the game's first play Logan Bischoff grabbed the Maywood quarterback who fumbled. Weylin Davis fell on the ball and on the game's second play Connor Kayton ran six yards for a touchdown. Thirteen seconds into the game the score was 8-0.

After the fumble the Bronco defense forced five straight three-and-outs in the first quarter while the offense put up 30 points. The Broncos had scored 22 points after running only six plays.

The total could have been worse if a Wes Anderjaska punt return hadn't been called back after a block in the back.

Despite stalling on its fourth possession, the Bronco offense added its fourth touchdown of the quarter on another two play drive with 1:06 left in the first quarter.

Following a Maywood punt to end the first quarter, the teams traded possessions on interceptions. After an interception thrown by Jacob Maris, Maywood used a 48-yard run to push into Bronco territory. Maris picked off the Tigers pass on the next play to set up a 70-yard touchdown pass to Hayden Pollmann.

The Tigers completed a 20-yard pass on its next possession only to be intercepted by Kayton. The Wauneta-Palisade offense followed up with runs of 10 yards by Jack McGraw, 29 by Kayton and then a 20-yard touchdown run by McGraw to make the score 44-0 with 4:48 left in the first half.

Although Wauneta-Palisade allowed Maywood to drive to the Bronco 17-yard line, the defense didn't allow any points, but picked up another interception, this one by Anderjaska.

The Broncos closed out the half with another touchdown, this one by McGraw, to head into halftime up 52-0.

McGraw racked up 95 yards rushing in the first half and Kayton ran for 68 yards. Each scored three touchdowns. Maris completed five-of-nine passes for 127 yards. None of the first team offense saw action in the second half.

"The boys came out and played very hard and executed well from the beginning of the game,"

said coach Frecks. “Coach Geier did a great job of preparing the offense, and we were able to take advantage of the short fields that our defense and special teams created.”

With the clock running and new faces in the game neither team scored in the third quarter.

Coach Frecks said, “It was really good to get the second team players a lot of reps, they have been working very hard this year also, and it is good to be able to get them a lot of playing time in a varsity game.”

Maywood did manage 14 fourth quarter points, running back a fumble 39 yards for a touchdown and driving the ball 39 yards to score on a five-yard touchdown run.

“We did have a few more penalties than we would have liked, and more than we have had recently. Most of them however were aggressive penalties where we were just not fully mentally focused, we have no doubt that will improve in the next couple of weeks,” said Frecks.

The Broncos have a week to rest before wrapping up the season at Elba-North Loup-Scotia (2-3) and hosting Silver Lake (5-0).

“Coming into the bye week we will continue to push ourselves to get better every day. The boys have done a great job of working hard in every practice so far this year, and they will continue to do that in this bye week,” added Frecks.