

What a difference a year makes for WP football team

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

Last November when the Wauneta-Palisade school board approved the football teams move to six-man no one could have imagined what the next year would bring.

In the midst of a 14-game losing streak and facing decreasing enrollment, the Broncos embraced the move to six man with the help of first year co-coaches, Randy Geier and Joseph Frecks.

The coaches' positive attitudes and enthusiasm spread throughout the team.

With Geier leading the offense and Frecks the defense, the wins came early and often.

Picking up early wins against Cody-Kilgore, Minatare and Hyannis, Wauneta-Palisade reached its first test Sept. 14 against three-time state champion Arthur County. The Broncos ended Arthur County's 37-game winning streak and continued to march through the season defeating Sioux County and Silver Lake, both unbeaten at game time.

The Broncos' luck held throughout the season as the team stayed healthy and the wins continued to roll in.

Out scoring opponents by an average of 44-17, the Broncos wrapped up the undefeated season

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Nov. 9 in Kearney with a second defeat of Sioux County, 26-16.

Despite a passing game that picked up middle of the season, the Broncos were led by the running duo of seniors Connor Kayton and Jack McGraw.

Kayton, first team all-state running back and punter, averaged 10.3 yards per carry and finished with 1,562 yards.

In contrast to Kayton's runs to the outside, McGraw, six-man's defensive player of the year, pounded teams up the middle en route to 995 yards.

Kayton and fellow senior Jacob Maris completed passes at a 48 percent clip. The pair threw for 15 touchdowns and four interceptions.

Senior Logan Bischoff and juniors Hayden Pollmann and Wes Anderjaska were the team's leading receivers.

The trio combined to catch 49 of the team's 60 completions and 14 of the team's 15 touchdown catches.

Defensively, McGraw led Broncos with 82 unassisted tackles and three fumble recoveries.

McGraw also had seven tackles for loss and five sacks.

Anderjaska finished second on the team with 55 unassisted tackles and six interceptions.

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Maris topped the charts with seven interceptions while Logan Bischoff and Weylin Davis each had nine sacks.

The Broncos will remain in six-man and defend thrit title in 2013.