



By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Brody Prante rushed for 149

yards and quarterback Michael York finished three scoring drives to lead the Plainsmen to a 7-1 season record with a 41-6 win over the Bulldogs Friday night in Bridgeport.

On the first drive of the game, York ran for 17 of the drive's 57 yards, faking a handoff and running straight ahead for a short touchdown and the lead that Perkins County would never surrender.

The junior running back Prante got to the right sideline to race 31 yards for a touchdown and a 34-6 Plainsmen lead with 3:44 remaining in the third.

Prante averaged 7.5 yards per carry by hitting creases the offensive line provided for him, flashing straight up the middle of the field, and sprinting to the edge of the defensive line and turning the corner.

“Brody does a good job when he gets in open field,” Plainsmen Head Coach Chip Kay said after the game.

“Out of the ‘I’ formation, [gaining] the yards rest a little more with the backs versus... our shotgun spread. I thought Brody, Alex [Johnston] and Justin Hatcher did a really nice job out of our ‘I’ set in hitting holes, in blocking and getting some extra yards. Our offensive line—we had bodies on bodies, we were doing a great job and it was obvious we were going to have a great night running the ball.”

Alex Johnston, a sophomore running back, followed right behind his Plainsmen teammate Prante with 7.2 yards per run and 93 on the night. Johnston did most of the digging for York’s first touchdown, carrying five times for 28 yards and bringing the ball to rest on the Bridgeport four-yard line.

He rammed one across the goal line from 14 yards out with 3:49 left in the half to give Perkins County a 20-6 lead.

The Bulldogs added some intrigue to the game with a 67-yard scoring drive that pulled Bridgeport to within a touchdown at 13-6. Quarterback Jaime Galvan escaped a rush and threw across his body for a 28-yard sideline completion to Nick Lapaseotes to bolster the drive. Lapaseotes finished the drive by taking Galvan’s screen pass 11 yards into the end zone.

Perkins County then rained 28 unanswered points on the Bulldogs, mirroring the weather that eventually caused officials to use towels to get the footballs dry.

The Plainsmen ground out the convincing win with 347 rushing yards, as York tread over 56

and fullback Justin Hatcher crossed 34 yards, including Perkins County's second touchdown from 12 yards away. Hatcher drew a diagonal from center to right in hustling by defensive end Jaime Gonzalez and into the corner of the end zone for a 13-0 Plainsmen lead.

York threw just twice, and connected on both. He led Taylor Boldt to leap toward the right sideline for a 31-yard completion, and evaded pressure while senior Kyle Schulze came back toward the ball for a 13-yard gain.

Galvan threw for 112 yards, striking on eight of the 18 passes he threw without an interception. He found Lapaseotes five times for 90 of those yards, mixing in some short slants and crossing patterns to go with the big connection they made in the first quarter.

The Plainsmen defense held Bridgeport to just 2.5 yards per rush, frequently penning up the Bulldogs at or behind Bridgeport's line of scrimmage.

Sophomore defensive lineman Vinny Ross involved himself on five tackles that either resulted in a loss or no Bulldogs gain.

"I thought after [Bridgeport's touchdown] our team settled down (they only got 67 yards in the second half) and did a really good job," Coach Kay said. "A couple of things early in the game got us out of rhythm. We turned the ball game over to the guys up front on offense and started rattling off big chunks of real estate. Our defense made a couple of adjustments... and we settled into a pretty good rhythm after that."

The kicking game gave Perkins County an edge for yet another week, with punter Quinton Hite averaging 45.5 yards on two punts. Jeremy Hagan punched in five of six extra points to finish an excellent year.

Hagan split the uprights with 30 of 32 extra points, and made good on all three field goals he attempted, including the impressive 41-yarder he kicked on October 15 against Chase County.

Overall, Hagan converted a near-automatic 94 percent of his kicks in 2010. Hagan put a point on the board after a touchdown 87 percent of the time (87/100) in his NSAA career.

York ran for just 56 yards (a little more than half of his 100-yard per game average) but made sure his Plainsmen got points by scoring three times. He strung out the defense and then darted through a hole for touchdown number two, and continued a quarterback sneak for five yards for his 16th touchdown in eight games.

York scored half of Perkins County's 32 touchdowns in 2010. He also led all tacklers on defense for the year, reaching out and touching ball carriers 43 times.

Tyler Brott and Kyle Schulze dragged down almost as many opponents during the year—36 apiece.

Playoff Action □

The Plainsmen earned a home game against the 6-2 Hershey Panthers this (Thursday) evening at 6 p.m. M.T.

The Panthers slid by Chase County, 28-21, on Oct. 1 and Bridgeport, 18-7, in the season's second game. But both 8-0 Cambridge and 7-1 North Platte St. Patrick's bulldozed the woodshed on the Panthers, 46-0 and 35-7, respectively.

The winner of Thursday's game hangs out in a bracket that includes Cambridge and North Platte St. Patrick's; the winner takes on the St. Pat's-Cross County winner on Wednesday, Nov. 3.

That second-round winner would see whichever team emerges from among the Cambridge/Blue Hill/Kearney Catholic/Superior mix on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

PC 41, Brideport 6

PC 13 7 14 7—41

Bridgeport 6 0 0 0—6

Team/Quarter/ Time /Play

PC 1 8:37 York 4 run (Hagan kick)

PC 1 5:49 Hatcher 12 run (kick failed)

Bridgeport 1 2:04 Galvan 11 pass to Lapaseotes (kick failed)

PC 2 3:49 Johnston 14 run (Hagan kick)

PC 3 7:14 York 9 run (Hagan kick)

PC 3 3:44 Prante 31 run (Hagan kick)

PC 4 2:51 York 5 run (Hagan kick)

Plainsmen defeat Bridgeport—earn home playoff berth

Rushing leaders—Perkins County: Prante 20/149 (31) TD; Johnston 13/93 (18) TD; York 11/56 (17) 3TD; Hatcher 4/34 (12) TD; Johnson 1/15; Bridgeport: Galvan 16/44 (10); Lapaseotes 4/24 (16); Hall 7/13 (6); DeCora 9/11 (8); six others combined 8/15 (9).

Passing—Perkins County: York 2-2-44; Bridgeport: Galvan 8-18-112-1.

Receiving—Perkins County: Boldt 1/31; Schulze 1/13; Bridgeport: Lapaseotes 5/90 (28) TD; Pappas 3/22 (9).

Defense—Perkins County: Hatcher 8.5/9; Schulze 6/4; Brott 5/4; Carlson 4.5/7; York 4.5/5; Ross 4/6; Hagan 3.5/3; Hite 3.5/3.