



### **By LaDonna Swedberg**

*Sports Writer*

The Wildcats were expecting a tough game when Paxton came to town and the Tigers validated those expectations as they proved to be too much for Wallace in last week's big game. The hard fought battle ended with the Wildcats falling in defeat 22-74.

Paxton had a great start when Kolton Carlyle returned the opening kick 26 yards to enable his team to begin their drive on their 30-yard-line.

Tyler Schimonitz then went 28 yards on the first play and just that quick, the Tigers were at the Wildcat 28-yard-line. The Wildcat defense, however, had other ideas and they didn't allow anymore yards, forcing the Tigers to turn the ball over on downs four plays later.

Wallace's opening drive was just getting started when the Paxton defense came up with an interception near mid field. Little by little the Tigers used their size up front to make their way to the end zone for the first score of the night.

With 5:04 left in the first quarter, Carrick Perlinger ran the final yard to put his Tigers on top 0-6.

The Wildcats were forced to punt on their second possession and the Tigers were back on the prowl. Mixing the run and the pass, Paxton had positive yardage on every play and late in the quarter Perlinger spotted his favorite target Zach Morland, for an 8-yard touchdown reception. The two-point conversion was successful so the score at the end of the first quarter found the Tigers leading 0-14.

The Tigers appeared to have all the momentum as the second quarter got underway. The Wildcats started the quarter by having to punt the ball but a run-in with a referee forced punter Taylor Doell, to have to run the ball. The Tiger defense was right there to stop Doell's efforts taking him down on the three yard line. Three plays later Paxton was on the board with eight

more points.

The Wallace offense made some adjustments when they took the field and came up with the plays to move the ball. They used the run/pass combination and after a couple of passes from John Marquardt to Taylor Doell and a couple runs from Marquardt, the Wildcats earned their first touchdown. Josh May added the extra two points and the blue and white had a new spark.

Paxton was quick to squelch the Wildcat enthusiasm when Carlyle returned the kickoff for a 70-yard touchdown. The Wildcat offense came back, however, to continue where they left off, mixing pass and run and with 5:47 left in the half, they added another touchdown.

The action-packed second quarter was only half over and so was the scoring. Three more touchdowns would be scored before the half time buzzer sounded. Paxton responded to the Wallace touchdown with a couple big runs from Schimonitz and Carlyle to add the next Tiger touchdown. Marquardt then came up with a big 57-yard run of his own which he capped it off with an 8-yard touchdown pass to Jose Arvizo. Paxton wanted the last word though so Perlinger went to the air to Morland once again for a 28-yard touchdown reception. The teams went to the locker rooms with Paxton leading 22-46.

The second half looked to have a promising start when the Wildcats put together a good drive that got them down to the 5-yard line, but that was all the Tiger defense would allow.