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Minus a few plays not going their way and one long run by Dundy County/Stratton, the Perkins County football squad was very competitive against the Tigers on Sept. 6.

The Plainsmen lost 18-0 in their home opener.

“Again, we did play better and did improve in some areas, but we are a young team and have to learn to put a complete game together,” PCS head football coach, Carlie Wells, said.

There were some exciting moments in the contest where PCS could effectively move the ball down the field on offense and made some hard-nosed hits on defense. However, the Tigers found a way to maintain their lead throughout the game.

The Plainsmen fumbled the ball on their own 25 yard line in the first quarter, giving the Tigers prime real estate to score. Facing a third and five on the 25 of Perkins County, Kaleb Vak of the Plainsmen came up with a tackle for a two-yard loss. Going for it on fourth down, the Tigers were able to connect on a pass into the corner of the end zone for the score. The PAT was no good and the Tigers led 6-0.

Consistently throughout the first half Perkins County would stretch Dundy County/Stratton to the limit with long third downs or short fourth down conversions. Unfortunately for PCS, the Tigers were able to find a way to get the first down and keep drives alive.

The Tigers would punch a TD in on the ground and the two-point conversion would fail, giving Dundy County/Stratton a 12-0 lead after one period.

Vak and Christian White proved to be a good combination for PCS as the duo picked up three consecutive first downs early in the second quarter.

White used his footwork to burst up the middle to come close to a first down when Vak went inside on the next play to gain a fresh set of downs for the Plainsmen. On fourth and four on the next series, Vak caught a screen pass and used a great second effort to gain the first down on the Dundy County/Stratton 35 yard line.

Vak powered up the middle for a first down on third and two for the first down. However, on the next play a toss down the field led to an interception. Kyle Rotherham of Dundy County/Stratton broke free for 86 yards and a touchdown on the very first play from scrimmage for the Tigers.

The PAT was no good and Dundy County/Stratton led 18-0 at the half.

"We threw the ball well at times. We were able to generate some first downs and continued to play hard," Wells said. "The biggest thing is we are just gaining experience each week."

The Plainsmen came out strong in the second half on defense, and the antithesis of this style of play was led by Chase Miyamoto. The senior for PCS leveled Rotherham of the Tigers as he attempted to make a grab in the center of the field for an incomplete pass.

Quarterback draws by the Tigers were snuffed in the second half and the defense of the Plainsmen kept the momentum from completely shifting the way of the Tigers.

On offense White connected with Vak underneath for a first down on the Dundy County/Stratton 10 yard line late in the fourth quarter. However, a bad center-quarterback exchange on fourth and two gave the Tigers the ball and Dundy County/Stratton wore the clock down to take the victory.

Rectifying the center-quarterback exchange is something that Wells hopes is behind his squad.

"We have just worked on our focus in practice. We have added some incentives to help improve the center exchange," Wells said.

The team has a bye this week and will host Hershey on Sept. 20. The time off this week will give Wells and the Plainsmen a chance to work on improving a few key aspects of their game.

"I think we can use this time to improve our offensive line play and defensive line play. Hershey is big and athletic," Wells said.

