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(Neb.)-Placekicker Stars As White Team Wins Eagles' Spring Game 39-36

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 04/21/2013 07:03 AM

The Whites rallied from what had once been a 29-9 deficit to pull out a 39-36 victory over the Cardinal team during Chadron State College's spring football game Saturday.

The high-scoring affair was in contrast to most of the Eagles' recent spring games when points usually came at a premium. Last year's 20-10 score was the most points that had been rung up in any of the previous three spring contests.

The game's leading scorer was placekicker Alex Ferdinand. The junior-to-be from Rapid City did the honors for both teams and made all 12 of his attempts—six field goals and six extra points for a total of 24 points.

Ferdinand booted field goals of 37 and 55 yards for the Cardinal team and those of 27, 37, 44 and 38 for the Whites. The 38-yarder came with 1:24 to play to decide the outcome.

Seven different players also scored touchdowns in the contest, including a 20-yard interception return by the Cardinal's Tyler Wright in the first period.

The Cardinal team's other touchdowns came on a four-yard run by tailback Michael Madkins, a 20-yard scamper by quarterback Will Burgess and a 16-yard pass from Burgess to Zach Bargaen.

Two of the White's TDs were passes thrown by quarterback Patrick O'Boyle. They covered 17 yards to Antonio Thompson and 33 yards to Isaac Holscher. The final White TD came on an eight-yard run by Cody Paul shortly after the Cardinal team had fumbled the ball away at its own 14 late in the third period. Paul scored two plays later to put Whites ahead for the first time—36-33.

Ferdinand's 37-yard field goal early in the fourth period allowed the Cardinal team to tie the score, but he booted the 38-yarder to win the game for the Whites after O'Boyle and Holscher had connected on a crucial third-down pass for a first-down at the Cardinal 27.

Head coach Jay Long called the game "really fun" with ideal weather and a good-sized crowd looking on. He noted that Fernandez "certainly had a terrific day" and added that numerous other players also did some impressive things.

Offensive coordinator Chris Stein said he was happy with the way several of the young running backs such as Paul, Thompson and Donnie Butler ran the ball and never fumbled.

“When the backs run well, it means the line blocked well,” Stein added.

Defensive coordinator Jeff Larson said that although lots of points were scored, he still some good things on defense.

“I thought we got good pressure on the quarterbacks and the defensive line held its own,” Larson said. “It seemed like everyone competed and was getting after it pretty well. I hope our defense never gives up this many points next fall, but it’s good to see the offense move the ball and to see Ferdinand kick it that well.”

Cardinal team 22 7 4 3 ----36

White team 6 12 18 3 ---39