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(Neb.)-CSU-Pueblo beats CSC in shootout



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 10/12/2013 05:44 PM

CHADRON – Whenever Colorado State University-Pueblo and Chadron State meet on the football field, odd things happen. This year was just plain offensive.

The two teams combined for 1,208 yards and 171 plays but timely touchdowns were pivotal as the fifth-ranked ThunderWolves (6-0, 4-0 RMAC) outlasted the 19th-ranked Eagles 51-42 at Elliott Field Saturday.

Chadron State quarterback Jonn McLain threw for a school record 600 yards – he also completed a school record 49 passes and added four TDs – but the ThunderWolves' quick strike offense coupled with their opportunistic defense proved to be too tough for the Eagles (4-2, 3-1 RMAC) to overcome.

Pueblo scored four touchdowns on drives that took three plays or less and three of them – including a 70-yard fumble recovery early in the fourth quarter – were longer than 50 yards.

Quarterback Chris Bonner completed 19 of 28 passes for 333 yards and five touchdowns and running back Chris Ashe carried the ball 28 times for 158 yards and a TD.

In all, the Pueblo offense, which entered the game ranked 16th in Division II, gained 503 yards on 68 plays.

Chadron State, which gained the second-most yards in school history with 705, only led early in the first quarter after Glen Clinton, who rushed for 53 yards but had seven receptions for 147 yards, scored from one yard out on fourth down.

Following the Eagles' TD, Pueblo scored back-to-back touchdowns on Bonner passes.

The Eagles answered with 21 seconds to play in the first half when Cody Roes, who had eight receptions for 72 yards and three touchdown receptions, found pay dirt to cut the ThunderWolves' lead to 21-16.

However, Bonner connected with Kieran Duncan, who had four receptions for 140 yards and two scores, on a 70-yard touchdown strike with six seconds to play to put Pueblo up 28-16 heading into halftime.

The two teams traded field goals in a mundane third quarter but they managed to give fans plenty of fireworks in the fourth quarter by combining for 43 points.

Chadron State was never able to get the score under double digits, though, until there was 31 seconds remaining to play. Despite that, there were still plenty of big plays for the Eagles and McLain completed 16 of 22 passes for 275 yards in the fourth quarter alone. One of his 16 completions went to Nathan Ross for an 84-yard touchdown.

Ross had a team-high 166 yards receiving, while Travis Reeves finished with 12 catches for 98 yards.

Shea Koch paced the Chadron State defense with 13 tackles, while Pierre Etchemendy added 12.

CSU-P 7 21 3 20 – 51

CSC 7 9 3 23 – 42

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

CSC – Glen Clinton 1 run (Randy Wentz kick)

CSUP – Paul Browning 5 pass from Chris Bonner (Greg O'Donnell kick)

Second Quarter

CSUP – Coleman MacArthur 3 pass from Bonner (O'Donnell kick)

CSC – Randy Wentz 37 field goal

CSUP – Kieren Duncan 59 pass from Bonner (O'Donnell kick)

CSC – Cody Roes 4 pass from Jonn McLain (Patrick O'Boyle rush failed)

CSUP – Kieren Duncan 70 pass from Bonner (O'Donnell kick)

Third Quarter

CSUP – O'Donnell 38 field goal

CSC – Wentz 27 field goal

Fourth Quarter

CSUP – Darius Allen 70 fumble recovery (O'Donnell kick)

CSC – Cody Roes 13 pass from McLain (Wentz kick)

CSUP – Paul Browning 15 pass from Bonner (O'Donnell kick failed)

CSC – Nathan Ross 84 pass from McLain (Glen Clinton pass from McLain)

CSUP – Chris Ashe 5 run (O'Donnell kick)

CSC – Cody Roes 9 pass from McLain (Chapman Ham from McLain)