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(Neb.)- Chadron Drops Season Opener On The Road

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 08/30/2013 11:54 PM

(Alliance)- A blocked extra point with fifteen seconds left was the difference between a tie and a loss on Friday night as Chadron fell to Alliance 21-20 to open up the 2013 season. After taking a 14-7 halftime lead, the Cardinals squandered an opportunity to extend their lead late in the third quarter, when Alliance's Trevor Kamerzell intercepted a T.D. Stein and returned it 98-yards for a Bulldog touchdown.

Chadron opened up the scoring early in the first quarter when T.D Stein launched the ball 33-yards to Senior wideout Spencer Eliason to put Chadron on top 7-0. Following the ensuing kickoff, Alliance drove down the field and punched in a touchdown of their own when quarterback Josh Matulka scrambled into the endzone from 16-yards out. Chadron Coach Mike Lecher said Alliance's "no huddle" offense posed problems for the Chadron defense and made it difficult for adjustments.

Chadron would open up the second quarter the same way they did the first, by going to the air and striking big. Quarterback T.D Stein would find Keenan Johnson from 10-yards out to put Chadron ahead 14-7 and take the lead into the break. Coming out of half Coach Lecher complimented his offense and felt they were doing a good job of moving the ball through the air, but needed to improve their ground game.

Chadron's offense responded to their coaches request by sustaining two drives in the third quarter, but came away scoreless both times. Alliance would pull to within one, 14-13, when a missed coverage assignment on defense would turn into a 70-yard touchdown pitch and catch from Matulka to Ryan Romick. Alliance would miss the PAT and Chadron remained ahead. The biggest setback for Chadron came on a drive that put Chadron in a offensive goal line set. Stein, who re-entered after leaving three plays earlier with cramps, took a shot for the end zone from the 8-yard line and threw right in to the hands of Alliance corner back Trevor Kamerzell who returned it 98-yards for the score, following a converted two point attempted Alliance took their first lead of the game at 21-14.

Going into the fourth quarter a worn down Chadron team, would will together a final scoring drive in attempts to tie the game. T.D Stein would take the ball over the right side of the line of scrimmage and fall across the goal line to pull the Cardinals within 21-20 with under 30 seconds remaining. In a decision to go for the tie or two point conversion, Coach Lecher chose the side of caution and attempted the PAT. A large push by the Alliance defense allowed a block on the attempt and sealed the win for Alliance.

Alliance moves to 1-0 on the young season, while Chadron will take an 0-1 record into their home opener against Gering next Friday night. You can hear next Friday's game on Stereo AM 610 KCSR and chadrad.com with coverage starting at 6:30 p.m.