

Friday Night Football Frenzy



October 26, 2024

FREE PUBLICATION

Week NINE



ESTABLISHED IN 1866

THE BELTON  JOURNAL

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PHOTO CREDIT TONY ADAMS

Lake top of district with win



PHOTO CREDIT MIKE MYERS

By **ARIES RAMOS**
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos hosted the Cedar Park Timberwolves in a district matchup. The game came down to the wire as a first-place battle ensued in Belton.

The game started with the Broncos' defense hitting the field first. The Broncos had cold feet to start, allowing the Timberwolves to gain a first down after getting set back with a 3rd and 9. However, the Broncos stood firm and forced a punt, returning the ball with just over 11 minutes left.

The Broncos' first drive started off on the wrong foot, with Lake Belton getting backed up into their own 15-yard line. With the ball on their own 11, the Broncos' Maverik Maddux found Davion Peters on a 15-yard pass that allowed them to get out of their own red zone. The Broncos mounted

a great drive across the 50 thanks to a post route by Peters, setting them up on the 48-yard line.

With momentum on their side, Lake Belton looked to Zion Harness for a rush that featured a couple of broken tackles on his way to a 15-yard gain. The very next play, Harness was found wide open on a backside post by Eli Mascarenas, giving the Broncos a 7-0 lead with 5:50 left in the quarter.

The Broncos' defense was looking for another punt from the Timberwolves as they headed back on the field. Lake Belton Jeremiah Basttreall found his way into the backfield on 2nd down, getting pressure that led to an incomplete pass.

However, the Timberwolves found their footing and got inside the Broncos' 20-yard line thanks to an out route. A couple of plays later, Cedar Park's Noah

See **BRONCOS**,
Page 3

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Broncos - From Page 2

Wallace broke loose on a screen and trotted into the endzone, tying the game at 7-7 with 2:05 left in the 1st.

The Broncos' second drive was a long and sustained 75-yard drive. The Broncos prospered off a huge play thanks to a post route from Maddux to Zach Dodd that went for 31 yards. The Broncos took advantage of the big play and momentum and ran another post, this time from the slot. Maddux found Davion Peters streaking over the middle for another Lake Belton touchdown. The score set the Broncos up with a 14-7 lead with 10:36 left in the half.

The Cedar Park offense stepped back onto the field, looking to get another score and even the game up. Lake Belton Josh Mallard had other plays for the Timberwolves. Cedar Park threw a screen, and Mallard flew in from his safety position, tackling Cedar Park wide out before he could even get going. The tackle for loss set the Timberwolves up with a

2nd and 16. However, the Timberwolves bounced right back as their quarterback, David Cooper, found Jamal Porter for an 80-yard streak down the middle of the field. The touchdown tied the game at 14, all with 8:32 left in the half.

The ensuing kickoff saw Lake Belton's Zion Harness find a seam and streak down the sideline with his eyes on a kick return touchdown. However, the Cedar Park kicker was able to trip him up after he set his team up near the Timberwolves' 30-yard line. Harness' return was 60 yards in all. The Broncos' offense took advantage of the short field and drove the 33 yards for their 3rd touchdown in 3 drives. A Davion Peters run out of the wildcat capped off the drive. Peters looked to be going down around the 2-yard line. However, he was able to break the tackle and find pay dirt on his 6-yard rushing touchdown. The score gave the Broncos a 21-14 lead with 7 minutes left in the half.

However, the Timberwolves would not be pushed around so easily. Cedar Park drove down the field and quickly found itself in Broncos' territory thanks to a long catch facilitated by the Broncos' lack of pressure on the defensive line. After a penalty on the Broncos moved the Timberwolves down to the 11-yard line, Cedar Park hit pay dirt on a quarterback keeper, tying the game at 21-21 heading into the halftime break.

Both teams' second half was a defensive showcase. Despite the combined six touchdowns in the first half, neither Lake Belton nor Cedar Park could get anything going offensively after the halftime break.

It was not until there were 9 minutes left in the fourth quarter that one of the teams finally broke the tie. Lake Belton found Peters on a deep post that set them up with a first and goal. Eli Mascarenas would cap off the drive with a 6-yard quarterback keeper, giving his team a 28-21 lead with

just under 9 minutes to play in the game.

Cedar Park's ensuing drive was fast, and they quickly found themselves in the red zone. However, a penalty on 3rd and goal whipped out a touchdown run. Staring at a 4th and goal, the Timberwolves made their last stand to win the game. However, they came up short, turning the ball over.

With the turnover, the Broncos won the game 28-21, taking the first-place spot in the district, something head coach Brian Cope was proud of.

"I want the team to enjoy this win tonight. I'm proud of them and how they played down the stretch. Cedar Parks is a team that does not lose too many games, and for us, this might have been the best win in school history."

The win puts the Broncos at 4-1 in the district and 7-2 in the year. The Broncos will enjoy the win but will get back to work next week as they prepare to face a talented Georgetown team in another district clash.

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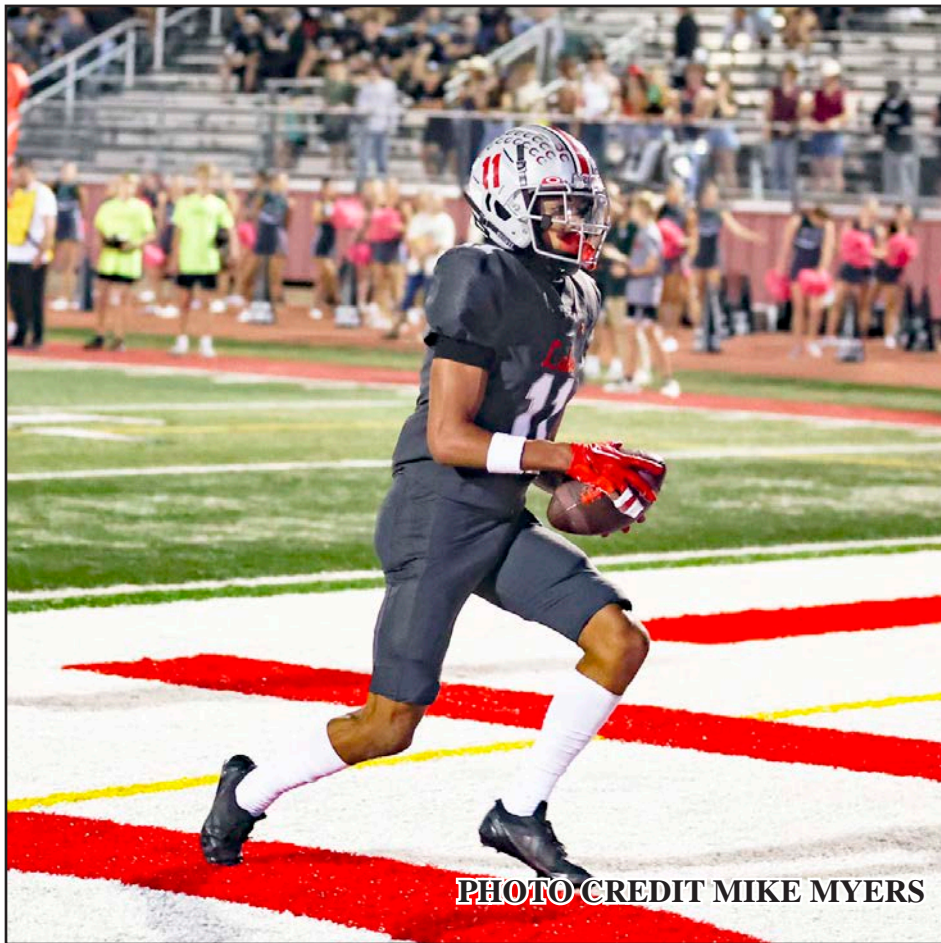
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Lake Belton Broncos Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	
8/30	A&M Consolidated (College Station, TX)	L
7:00p	Location: Lake Belton High School	
9/5	McNeil (Austin, TX)	W
7:00p	Location: Lake Belton High School	
9/12	@ Killeen (Killeen, TX)	W
7:00p	Location: Killeen High School	
9/27	@ Rouse (Leander, TX) *	L
7:00p	Location: Rouse High School	
10/4	East View (Georgetown, TX)	W
7:00p	Location: Lake Belton High School	
10/11	@ Glenn (Leander, TX) *	W
7:00p	Location: Glenn High School	
10/18	@ Leander (Leander, TX) *	W
7:00p	Location: Leander High School	
10/25	Cedar Park (Cedar Park, TX) *	W
7:00p	Location: Lake Belton High School	
11/1	@ Georgetown (Georgetown, TX) *	
7:00p	Location: Georgetown High School	
11/8	Chaparral (Killeen, TX) *	
7:00p	Location: Lake Belton High School	



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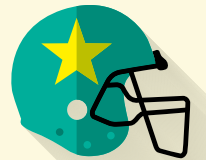


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BISD ATHLETICS



PHOTO CREDIT MIKE MYERS

Tigers still in Playoff hunt

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Tigers' playoff hopes are still alive.

Following three consecutive postseason berths highlighted by back-to-back district titles, Belton was on the verge of being eliminated from playoff contention Friday at Bryan, but the Tigers refused to lose.

Belton stunned Rudder 38-34 on

homecoming, earning its first win of the year and potentially propelling itself back into the postseason.

Coupled with the night's other outcomes from across District 10-5A, Division II, an insurmountable gap was avoided between the Tigers and fourth place in the standings.

Defeating Ellison in a clash of championship favorites, No.

See **TIGERS**,
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Belton Tigers Football Schedule 2024

Date	Opponent	
8/29 7:00p	Hendrickson (Pflugerville, TX) Location: Belton High School	L
9/6 7:00p	Georgetown (Georgetown, TX) Location: Belton High School	L
9/12 7:00p	@ East View (Georgetown, TX) Location: East View High School	L
9/20 7:00p	@ San Angelo Central (San Angelo, TX) Game Details: San Angelo	L
9/27 7:30p	Cuero (Cuero, TX) Location: Belton High School	L
10/10 7:00p	@ Ellison (Killeen, TX) * Game Details: Searles Stadium	L
10/18 7:00p	University (Waco, TX) * Location: Belton High School	L
10/25 7:00p	@ Rudder (Bryan, TX) * Location: Rudder High School	W
11/1 7:00p	@ Waco (Waco, TX) * Game Details: Waco ISD Stadium	
11/7 7:00p	Brenham (Brenham, TX) * Location: Belton High School	

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Tigers - From Page 13

10 Brenham (7-1, 3-0) sits atop the field with an undefeated record, leaving the Eagles (4-4, 2-1) tied for second place with Waco University. The Trojans (6-2, 2-1) defeated Waco 50-3.

The win ties Belton (1-7, 1-2) and the Rangers (7-1, 2-1) for fourth place, while the Lions (2-6, 0-3) follow.

It took a late score to secure the win, but early on, it appeared the Tigers were poised to easily hand Rudder its second consecutive loss.

On the heels of suffering their first loss of the season in a 31-10 defeat at Brenham last week, the Rangers started slowly, falling into a double-digit deficit.

The Tigers' defense forced a three-and-out on the game's opening drive and senior Kegan Sherwood blocked Rudder's punt attempt, setting up a one-yard touchdown from sophomore quarterback Will Shepard on the ensuing snap.

Belton's lead was erased on the following possession as Rudder capped off a 13-play drive with a 17-yard scoring pass from quarterback Javyn Jessie to

Jaquise Martin with 5 minutes, 20 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Then, the Tigers converted a fourth-and-1 en route to junior running back Gino Zecca's five-yard run into the end zone, and after the Rangers punted away the next possession, Shepard ran for a 30-yard touchdown, giving Belton a 21-7 advantage that held into the second quarter.

But before halftime arrived, Rudder was in control.

Thanks in part to a pair of fourth-down conversions, the Rangers responded with a 22-yard touchdown from Jessie to Martin, but the snap on the extra point was bobbled, allowing Tigers sophomore Azian Wilkinson to scoop up the ball and return it for a safety.

Belton's next two possessions resulted in lost fumbles, and Rudder capitalized with touchdowns each time – a 10-yard run from Jessie and a 30-yard pass from Jessie to Morrison – adding a 2-point conversion onto the second, and the Rangers took a 28-23 lead into halftime.

After swapping four fruitless possessions to start the third period, the Tigers reclaimed a 31-28 lead on

Shepard's two-yard touchdown pass to Collin Taylor, a senior, and Shepard's ensuing 2-point conversion run with 63 seconds remaining in the quarter.


As time expired in the period, though, Jessie recorded a 53-yard pass to Martin, and the Rangers held a three-point lead, 34-31, to open the game's last 12 minutes following a failed 2-point conversion attempt.

The Rangers' next drive ended with Belton senior defensive lineman Damien Tiimalu blocking a punt, and with 6:42 remaining in regulation, Shepard found junior receiver Achilles Palomares for a seven-yard touchdown to tally the contest's final points.

Rudder's turnover on downs minutes later then allowed the Tigers to run out the clock and celebrate their first victory.

Now, the Tigers turn their attention toward their final two games of the season.


Belton can improve its playoff chances Friday with a win at Waco in its last road game against the host Lions before welcoming the Cubs on Nov. 7 to conclude the regular season.



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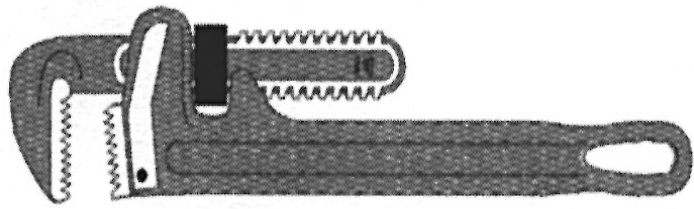
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