

Matadors rally, edge Whitefaces

Estacado wins season opener

Posted: August 29, 2014 - 11:43pm



Zach Long/A-J Media
Estacado's Kenaris Jackson catches a touchdown against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)



Zach Long/A-J Media
Estacado's David Smith breaks free for a touchdown against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)



Zach Long/A-J Media
Estacado's Craig Busby is upended against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)



Zach Long/A-J Media
Estacado's Craig Busby runs against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)



Zach Long/A-J Media
Estacado's Kenaris Jackson breaks free against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)



Zach Long/A-J Media
Estacado's Kenaris Jackson makes a catch against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)



Zach Long/A-J Media
Estacado's David Smith(18) and Jalen Tennison(4) celebrate a touchdown against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)



Zach Long/A-J Media

Estacado's David Smith breaks free for a touchdown against Hereford during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Zach Long)

By [KRISTA PIRTLE](#)
A-J MEDIA

Jaleen Tennison scrambled in the backfield.

The Estacado senior quarterback had plenty of time, thanks to his offensive line, before he found senior Carl Willard 23 yards away in the end zone with less than 30 seconds left in the game.

Touchdown.

Just like coach Danny Servance had drawn up.

“He had a variety of guys to throw the football to,” Servance said. “He made a great choice and Carl made a great catch.”

Hereford, who had recently taken its first lead of the night the series before, didn't have enough time left to make a comeback of its own as Estacado finished the evening with the 37-36 victory and a 1-0 start to the season.

In only the first game of the season, Servance saw his team respond to what he and his coaching staff have been telling them — Anything is possible when there's time left on the clock.

“We want our kids to have a ‘never say die’ attitude,” Servance said. “Sometimes you have to remind them because they're still 16, 17 year old kids. They react to what's happening on the field. I told them before the game that football has a schizophrenic nature. All kinds of things can happen during the ball game, but you've got to stay even-keeled all the way through. I think at the end of the game, our kids did a great job.”

Estacado owned the first half, taking a 19-7 lead into the half.

Coming into the game Friday evening, Servance was aware that his offense was ahead of his defense.

So when the Whitefaces battled back into the game and took the lead for the first time late in the fourth quarter, he was aware of his team's growing pains.

"I think we showed a little vulnerability in the secondary," Servance said. "We play so many kids on both sides of the ball, I think we got fatigued. Early in the ball game our secondary played well. I thought late in the ball game we got fatigued and they took advantage of it."

Offensively, the Matadors were in good hands.

Tennison led the way for Estacado, making big plays when the Matadors needed it the most.

After the Whitefaces cut the Matador's lead to four in the third quarter, the Estacado offense stayed on the field in a fourth-and-five situation barely on Hereford's side of the 50-yard line.

Overall, he finished with seven passes for 162 yards while running for 49 and adding 169 yards on kick returns.

"He wasn't bad," Servance said. "He made a lot of things happen. We know he can do that. When plays break down, he keeps plays alive with his legs. He did a good job with that."

ESTACADO 37, HEREFORD 36

Hereford 0 7 7 22 — 36

Estacado 12 7 0 18 — 37

First Quarter

EST — Scored on the first play from scrimmage off a 55-yard run by David Smith

Second Quarter

HER — Scored its first touchdown of the game as Gonzales ran it in three yards.

Third Quarter

HER — Took 8:00 off the clock to start the quarter before scoring a rushing touchdown.

Fourth Quarter

HER — Took its first lead of the game with 1:04 to play

EST — Regained the lead with a 23-yard pass from Tennison to Willard with less than 30 seconds

VISITOR HOME

First downs 31 23

Rushes-yards 37-187 32-146

Passing yards 307 161

Comp.-att.-int. 12-21-1 7-14-0

Punts-avg. 3-44.3 4-44.25

Fumbles-lost 1-1 3-2

Penalties-yards 7-55 12-106.5

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Hereford, Payton Gonzales 145. Estacado, David Smith, 75.

PASSING: Hereford, Gonzales 307. Estacado, Jalen Tennison 161.

RECEIVING: Hereford, Isaiah Garcia, 169. Estacado, Kenaris Jackson 107.