

Caprock benefits from Estacado's rocky beginning

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Shannon Wilson / AJ Media

Caprock's Victor Rodriguez carries for a touchdown against Estacado during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Shannon Wilson/AJ Media)



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Caprock's Austin Cruz-Riley is tackled by Estacado's Jalen Tennison (4) and D'Ante Thomas (14) during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Shannon Wilson/AJ Media)



Shannon Wilson / AJ Media

Estacado's Jacobye Bracy tips a ball near Caprock's Austin Cruz-Riley during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Shannon Wilson/AJ Media)



Shannon Wilson / AJ Media

Estacado's David Smith is tackled by Caprock's defense during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Shannon Wilson/AJ Media)



Shannon Wilson / AJ Media

Caprock's Austin Cruz-Riley catches a touchdown past Estacado's Jacobye Bracy during their game on Friday in Lubbock. (Shannon Wilson/AJ Media)



Shannon Wilson / AJ Media

Members of the Estacado band suffer through rain and chilly winds to cheer on their football team during their game against Caprock on Friday in Lubbock. (Shannon Wilson/AJ Media)

By [KRISTA PIRTLE](#)

A-J MEDIA

A sloppy first quarter handicapped the Estacado Matadors in a 40-34 loss to Amarillo Caprock on Friday afternoon. New faces and inexperience on the defensive side of the ball allowed the Longhorns to jump out to a 20-0 start at Lowrey Field.

The deficit proved to be too large for the Matadors to bounce back from.

“We dug ourselves in a hole early,” Estacado coach Danny Servance said. “We had a lot of injuries. We never make excuses. We had a lot of injuries, so we had a lot of new kids in new positions that hadn’t played a lot of football on the varsity level. I think it took some time for us to settle in and do some things that we normally do well.”

While inexperience played a factor in those defensive breakdowns, there were opportunities to make plays on the ball throughout the game that Estacado just didn’t make — especially against the pass.

Amarillo Caprock senior quarterback Victor Rodriguez threw for 445 yards and five touchdowns. He had a corps of wide receivers to throw to, led by junior Jordan Atkinson who finished the afternoon with 157 yards and a touchdown.

“We put guys in position to make plays,” Servance said. “We had guys who were covering guys. We just didn’t make plays on the football. We’ve just got to do a better job of that.”

The Matadors fought back in the second quarter by holding the Longhorns to one touchdown and getting on the board with a touchdown themselves, a 37-yard run by junior running back David Smith

Going into the locker room at half time, — down 27-7 — Servance made sure his team knew that as long as there was time left on the scoreboard, there was still an opportunity to win.

“I told them we had two options,” Servance said. “Either we can quit or we can come out, show some Matador pride and fight and win the football game. I think they gave that kind of effort in the second half.”

After the half, Estacado took control offensively, outscoring Amarillo Caprock 27-13, but that dismal first quarter kept a win out of reach.

Smith helped keep the Matadors in the game with 219 rushing yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Senior quarterback Jaleen Tennison managed the offense through the air on a rainy afternoon with 149 yards and a score.

He also added a pair of 3-yard scores on the ground.

Smith then added a 52-yard run with 9:35 left in the fourth quarter to pull Estacado within 33-28.

But, Rodriguez threw a 67-yard pass to Atkinson to put Caprock back out in front by 12.

Tennison threw one more touchdown pass with 2:31 remaining, but it wasn’t enough.

“I thought they showed a lot of heart. That’s one thing about our kids. They don’t quit. They kept fighting. That’s just a staple of our football team. They’re going to continue to do that.”

AMARILLO CAPROCK 40, ESTACADO 34

Amarillo Caprock 20 7 0 13 — 40

Estacado 0 7 6 21 — 34

First Quarter

CAP — Cruz-Riley 57 pass from Lucero (Venegas kick); 9:11

CAP — Cruz-Riley 24 pass from Lucero (run failed); 6:01

CAP — Lucero 6 rush (86 kick); 2:43

Second Quarter

CAP — Cruz-Riley 2 pass from Lucero (Venegas kick); 00:01

EST — Smith 37 run (Garcia kick); 5:43

Third Quarter

EST — Tennison 3 run (kick failed); 6:38

Fourth Quarter

EST — Tennison 3 run (pass good); 11:55

CAP — Willard 9 pass from Rodriguez (pass failed); 10:21

EST — Smith 52 run (Garcia kick); 8:35

CAP — Atkinson 67 pass from Rodriguez (Venegas kick); 8:15

EST — Bracy 16 pass from Tennison (kick failed); 2:31

CAP EST

19 First downs 16

20-27 Rushes-yards 46-279

445 Passing yards 149

22-39-1 Comp.-att.-int. 7-18-1

3-30.3 Punts-avg. 4-25.5

5-2 Fumbles-lost 3-2

15-113 Penalties-yards 10-103

RUSHING: Caprock, Austin Cruz-Riley 19. Estacado, David Smith 219

PASSING: Caprock, Victor Rodriguez 445. Estacado, Jaleen Tennison 149.

RECEIVING: Caprock, Jordan Atkinson 157. Estacado, Roc Sanders 56.