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RIGHT MIX FOR MATADORS

Estacado puts pieces together and pulls out 34-29 victory over Pampa, securing a playoff berth, share of district title. **CI**

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Estacado finds right mix in win over Pampa

Williams' late 81-yard run lifts Matadors to playoffs

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Tori Eichberger / A-J Media
 Estacado's Jaleen Tennison gets past Pampa's Francisco Salazar during their game Thursday in Lubbock



Tori Eichberger / A-J Media
 Estacado's Isaac Banda tackles Pampa's Ty Hooper during their game Thursday in Lubbock.



Tori Eichberger / A-J Media
Estacado's Dorean Deary gets past Pampa's Ryan Lee to score a touchdown Thursday in Lubbock.



Tori Eichberger / A-J Media
Estacado's Kenaris Jackson runs past Pampa's Blaze Sullivan during their game Thursday in Lubbock.



Tori Eichberger / A-J Media
Estacado's Jaleen Tennison scores a touchdown against Pampa Thursday in Lubbock.



Tori Eichberger / A-J Media
Estacado's Jaleen Tennison gets past Pampa's Ryan Lee to score a touchdown during their game Thursday in Lubbock.

By [PHIL TERRIGNO](#)
A-J MEDIA

At the beginning of the season, it seemed like a powerful formula for Estacado. Talented running backs of varying size plus third-year starting quarterback Jaleen Tennison over a new pistol offense would yield weekly matchup problems.

But injuries happen, and Matadors coach Danny Servance was forced to alter the mixture: Ave'On Williams and Keshondric Essix filled slots formerly occupied by Craig Busby and Ukedrian Anderson and David Smith.

The tinkering and tweaking has produced the desired results.

Three interceptions from Tennison couldn't derail the Matadors 34-29 win over Pampa (3-5, 1-1), a performance that otherwise highlighted their big-play ability. The win gives Estacado (7-2, 3-0) a playoff berth and at least a share of the District 1-4A Division I title.

“(Pampa’s) kids were in the right place to make those plays,” Servance said. “The last interception, we had another play call and (Tennison) checked out of it. We give our kids the option to check out of things. In that instance, we weren’t supposed to check out of it. I told him, ‘hey, you’re OK. You’ve helped us win a lot of ballgames. Don’t get down.’”

With 2:51 left in the fourth quarter, Pampa’s final drive started on its own 28-yard line and stalled inside the Estacado red zone after a failed fourth down attempt. Estacado led 28-14 at halftime and Pampa took a 29-28 lead with 6:25 left in the fourth quarter after a 7-yard touchdown catch from Brendon Woelfle and a 3-yard run from Colton Thompson before a two-point conversion.

An 81-yard run from Williams, Tennison’s brother and a junior transfer from Slaton, put Estacado up 34-29 after it failed a two-point conversion. “I felt like I had to step up and just do another part that I knew I had in me,” Williams said. “Every time I touched the ball, I felt that I had to prove a point to show that I’m here to help and I’m willing to take it to the next level to help my team.”

Williams led the Matadors in rushing with 160 yards on 10 carries and Tennison carried 10 times for 74 yards.

Trailing 14-12 late in the second quarter, Estacado failed to convert a fourth down attempt inside the Pampa red zone and turned the ball over.

After completing a pass for a short gain and missing his target on another, Ty Hooper’s next pass was intercepted by Tennison at midfield and returned to the 4-yard line. Tennison capped off the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run and the two-point conversion gave Estacado a 20-14 lead it would not relinquish.

Pampa took all three of its timeouts on its final drive of the first half, opting to try and score with three seconds remaining on an out route to the right sideline. Hooper’s pass was picked up by Jacobye Bracy on the goalline and returned the length of the field for a touchdown, putting Estacado up 28-14 after a Tennison two-point conversion run.

Tennison was precise on Estacado’s first drive: his first pass was a 40-yard completion to Bracy and on the next play he ran for a 30-yard touchdown to give the Matadors a 6-0 lead. Dorean Deary’s 59-yard touchdown reception put Estacado up 12-0 with 5:02 left in the first quarter before it allowed Pampa to take a 14-12 lead on touchdown receptions from Bryce Parker and Alec McClendon.

“We grinded it out,” Servance said. “It wasn’t a pretty game. It was one that we had to really reach down and give a lot.”

PAMPA HARVESTERS		FINAL		ESTACADO MATADORS		
29		PAM	7	7	15	0
		EST	12	16	6	0
34						

PAMPA		ESTACADO		HIGHLIGHTS	
FIRST DOWNS	7	FIRST DOWNS	6	1ST	
RUSHES-YARDS	11-129	RUSHES-YARDS	15-156	#12 (PAM) passed to #10 (PAM) for a 32 yard gain - Touchdown PAMI - Point kicked by #(N/A) (PAM)	
COMP-ATT-INT	7-10-2	COMP-ATT-INT	1-6-3	2ND	
PASSING YARDS	136	PASSING YARDS	32	#12 (PAM) passed to #88 (PAM) for a 35 yard gain - Touchdown PAMI - Point kicked by #(N/A) (PAM)	
FUMBLES-LOST	0-0	FUMBLES-LOST	0-0	#4 Jalen Tennison rushed for a 5 yard gain - Touchdown ESTI - 2 point conversion	
PENALTY YARDS	1-0	PENALTY YARDS	0-0		
RECORDS	0-0 1-1	RECORDS	0-0 7-2		