



Stidham returns, Stephenville downs Estacado

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For A-J Media

ABILENE – That’s one way to tell the state of Texas that you’re back – and maybe even grab Kliff Kingsbury’s attention while you’re at it.

Jarrett Stidham made quite a return to the field on Friday night in Stephenville’s Region I-4A Division I area round playoff game at Shotwell Stadium on Friday night.

Expected to be out for at least two more weeks after suffering a broken hand in October, the Texas Tech-commit threw for 318 yards and six touchdowns in leading the Yellow Jackets to a 69-60 win over [Estacado](#).

“We played a heckuva ball game and just couldn’t get a stop when we needed to,” [Estacado](#) coach Danny Servance said. “In these type of ball games you can’t turn the ball over and we made a few more mistakes than they did.

“There is just no quit in our kids and I’m so proud of that.”

Stidham, who just received his medical clearance on Monday, also ran for 193 yards and three touchdowns as Stephenville improved to 8-3 on the season and set up a showdown next week back at Shotwell against District 3-4A Division I rival Big Spring.

“Coming into the game, I was the backup (quarterback) and if they wanted me to go in, I was going to,” Stidham said. “After the first drive, I went in and we just stuck with it.”

For Stephenville coach Joey Gillespie, the winning never gets old – whether it be a quadruple-overtime bi-district win or an area round shootout.

“You never get tired of winning,” said Gillespie. “We just said lets go win. (Jarrett) was a huge difference maker and Anthony (Chavarria) did such a wonderful job for us and Jarrett picked up right where he left off.”

After Stephenville drove down the field on the game’s opening possession, Kenaris [Jackson](#) came up with a big interception of Chavarria at his own 5 to end the threat. Two plays later, David [Smith](#) broke loose for an 80-yard touchdown.

Stephenville responded by bringing in Stidham who had missed most of the last three games with a broken hand.

“I knew there was a chance that he might play, but he did a great job and he’s a great quarterback that Texas Tech is getting,” said Servance. “He’s unbelievable.”

Stidham led an 11-play, 64-yard drive that he capped with a four-yard scoring toss to Josh Nowell to tie the game at 7-7 with 6:11 to play in the first quarter.

After the Yellow Jacket defense forced a three-and-out and partially blocked a punt, the Stephenville offense took over at the [Estacado](#) 28. Two plays later, Kaegun [Williams](#) hurdled a pile at the goal line for a 14-7 lead.

[Williams](#) finished the night with 119 yards rushing, 141 yards receiving and three total scores.

The [Matadors](#) (9-3) answered with a 66-yard drive over 11 plays that Jaleen [Tennison](#) ended with a plunge from three yards out to cut the deficit to 21-14 with 5:57 left in the first half.

It took less than 90 seconds for the Yellow Jackets to push the lead back to double-digits as Stidham found Darian Brown in the back of the end zone from 11 yards out for a 28-14 lead with 4:28 left in the second quarter.

With 4:06 to play in the half, Stephenville's Zoey Kendall was ejected for a helmet-to-helmet hit on [Tennison](#). [Smith](#) put the [Matadors](#) on his back and finished the drive off with a 33 yard run to make it 28-21.

This time, it only took Stephenville 22 seconds to respond as Stidham hit [Williams](#) in the flat and the running back sliced and diced his way through the Matador defense for a 62-yard touchdown reception to make it 35-21 with 2:12 left in the first half.

"The O-line did a great job for me and Kaegun in creating big holes," Stidham said. "They were flying down the field and the receivers did a great job of blocking and getting open. I'm proud of every single one of those guys."

The [Matadors](#) came back to score on the final play of the half when [Tennison](#) connected with Jevon [Bascus](#) from 11 yards out to make it 35-28.

[Tennison](#) finished the night completing 21-of-39 passes for 355 yards and five scores as [Estacado](#) amassed 666 yards of offense to 644 yards for Stephenville.

"We felt all season long like the only people that could stop us is us," Gillespie said. "The offense has done a wonderful job and our kids continued to battle."

When asked about having a second chance at the Steers, Stidham didn't say much but got his point across.

"It's on. That's all I'm saying. It's on Friday night."

AREA ROUND

STEPHENVILLE 69, LUBBOCK [ESTACADO](#) 60

Stephenville 14 21 7 27-69

[Estacado](#) 7 21 12 20-60

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

EST – David [Smith](#) 80 run (Eduardo Villarreal kick), 9:32

STE – Josh Nowell 4 pass from Jarrett Stidham (Michael Fick kick), 6:11

STE – Kaegun [Williams](#) 1 run (Fick kick), 3:17

Second Quarter

STE – [Williams](#) 74 pass from Stidham (Fick kick), 10:51

EST – Jaleen [Tennison](#) 3 run (Villarreal kick), 5:57

STE – Darian Brown 11 pass from Stidham (Fick kick), 4:28

EST – [Smith](#) 33 run (Villarreal kick), 2:34

STE – [Williams](#) 62 pass from Stidham (Fick kick), 2:12

EST – Jevon [Bascus](#) 11 pass from [Tennison](#) (Villarreal kick)

Third Quarter

EST – [Smith](#) 2 run (kick blocked), 8:06

STE – Austin Stufflebean 14 pass from Stidham (Fick kick), 5:50

EST – Dorean [Deary](#) 10 pass from [Tennison](#) (pass failed), 1:48

Fourth Quarter

STE – Ben Martin 25 pass from Stidham (Fick kick), 11:21

EST – [Deary](#) 9 pass from [Tennison](#) (run failed), 7:55

STE – Stidham 17 run (Fick kick), 5:10

STE – Stidham 21 run (kick failed), 4:24

EST – [Deary](#) 33 pass from [Tennison](#) (pass failed), 3:25

STE – Stidham 50 run (Fick kick), 2:01

EST – Kenaris [Jackson](#) 15 pass from [Tennison](#) (Jacoby [Bracy](#) pass from [Tennison](#)), :07

STE EST

First Downs 35 35

Rushes-Yards 30-316 39-311

Passing 328 355

Comp-Att-Int 19-30-1 21-39-0

Punts 0-0 1-5

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 4-3

Penalties-Yards 6-70 13-107

Individual Stats

RUSHING – Stephenville: Jarrett Stidham 12-193, Kaegun [Williams](#) 16-119, Ben Martin 1-5, Team 1-(minus-1). [Estacado](#): David [Smith](#) 17-165, Jaleen [Tennison](#) 17-125, Keshondrick [Essix](#) 4-21, Team 1-0.

PASSING – Stephenville: Stidham 18-26-0-318 yards, Anthony Chavarria 1-4-1-10 yards. [Estacado](#): [Tennison](#) 21-39-0-355 yards.

RECEIVING – Stephenville: [Williams](#) 3-141, Martin 4-70, Austin Stufflebean 3-47, Darian Brown 5-34, Josh Nowell 3-24, Zoey Kendall 1-12. [Estacado](#): Dorean [Deary](#) 7-137, Jevon [Bascus](#) 5-82, Kenaris [Jackson](#) 3-67, [Essix](#) 1-27, [Smith](#) 1-24, Jacoby [Bracy](#) 4-18.

RECORDS – Stephenville 8-3, [Estacado](#) 9-3.