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T'wolves fall to Lake Travis in crushing 54-17 loss



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Cedar Park's Brian Hogan had 40 yards on the return for the T'wolves and a 38-yard return that was called back due to holding by the T'wolves in their 54-17 loss to Lake Travis Thursday night.

Posted Thursday, September 10, 2009 6:00 pm

by **Jenn Rains, Hill Country News**

A rainy night set the stage for Cedar Park as they took on the two-time defending 4A state champion Lake Travis Cavaliers at A.C. Bible Jr. Memorial Stadium on Thursday. The T'wolves' offense struggled to come up with anything in the game as Cedar Park lost 54-17 to close out non-district play.

"Our offense just didn't move the ball," said Cedar Park coach Chris Ross. "We were not able to sustain a drive."

Cedar Park (1-2) was held to only four first downs in the first half of the game as the T'wolves running game was no match for a tough Cavalier (3-0) defense, held running back Darren Thornhill to just 20 yards rushing.

"They were able to stop our run game and we were just inconsistent with passing," Ross said.

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The T'wolves did try to end the first half with a bang as quarterback Nathan Thornhill connected with Dylan Cox for a 20-yarder and Michael Darby for a 33-yarder, but time expired before Cedar Park to finish the drive.

Cedar Park got its only offensive touchdown of the night with less than five minutes to play when second-string quarterback Brian Hogan passed the ball off to Zach Horne for a 27-yard touchdown run.

The T'wolves first touchdown came in the second quarter when defensive end Taylor Chew picked off Michael Brewer's pass, fumbled it and teammate Jeff Peden ran it in for a touchdown, cutting Lake Travis' lead to 10.

"Our defense played hard tonight, but they just got tired," said Ross. "Chet Moss and Holmes Onwukaife, those guys were doing some good things out there."

Overall though, Ross said his T'wolves just got outplayed by a very good Lake Travis team, which picked up its 33rd-straight win.

"You learn more from losses than wins," Ross said. "We learned the speed with which we've got to play for four quarters. I think we're better than we showed tonight. We made mistakes and we either have to fix them or see them again in Georgetown."

Cedar Park has next week off as the T'wolves look to get ready for the start of tough District 16-5A play. They will open district on the road at Georgetown on Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Star of the Show

While his team might have been struggling on the field, Cedar Park's kicker/punter T.J. Johnson shined and it wasn't because of his 35-yard field goal in the third quarter.

Johnson had six punts on the night with the shortest being a 35-yarder while the longest sailed 65 yards. He averaged 47-yards a punt in the game.

Costly missteps

On their second drive of the game, Cedar Park had a chance to get the momentum going when Hogan had a 38-yard punt return to set the T'wolves up with good field position. But, a holding call on the T'wolves voided the play and sent Cedar Park back to their own 15 to start the drive.

A fumble by Darren Thornhill on Cedar Park's first drive of the second quarter was recovered by the Cavaliers, giving them the ball on Cedar Park's 24-yard line. Lake Travis was able to capitalize on the fumble, scoring a touchdown to stretch their lead to 17-0.

Another Cedar Park fumble wiped out a 32-yard run by Michael Waterfield in the fourth quarter when quarterback Matt Posey fumbled the snap and couldn't recover before a Cavaliers' defender pounced on the ball.

Playing time

Though the loss wasn't the way Cedar Park wanted to end non-district play, the T'wolves were able to get many of their young players some snaps in the game. The T'wolves saw all three of their quarterbacks get playing time as starter Nathan Thornhill came out in the fourth quarter to allow junior Matt Posey to get his first varsity snaps, followed by Brian Hogan.

Many other backups on the Cedar Park offense saw playing time as well, as sophomores Zach Horne ran for a touchdown and Travis Reim caught a 24-yard pass from Hogan.

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