

# Cubs skunk Tigers!

Brownfield Cubs Head Coach Bryan Welps has spent the last six weeks trying to convince his team that they are better than their record shows and could accomplish some impressive gridiron feats if they would play together and stick to the game plan.

Friday night under the lights of Cub Stadium, Welps, along with his coaching staff, his team and a healthy crowd, his words proved true as the Cubs notched a convincing 27-0 shut-out of District rivals Slaton.

The Tigers entered the game fresh off a convincing 34-6 win over the Lamesa Golden Tors last week, but from the opening

kickoff Friday night, they were out-matched on both sides of the ball by the Cubs.

Brownfield lost its first possession of the game to an interception, but got the ball back on the very next play when they recovered a fumble less than two minutes into the game.

The Cubs moved the ball 29 yards on the ensuing drive, capped by a touchdown by Tae Williams who broke several tackles and pulled numerous Tiger defenders into the end zone with him.

With 9:19 to play in the first quarter, following the extra point by Michael Munoz, the Cubs were on top, 7-0.

On the final play of the first quarter, the Cubs caught another break when they recovered another Slaton fumble on their 47-yard line.

Less than a minute into the second frame, Cubs quarterback Shacolby Hill hung on to the ball for a 30-yard run to score again.

Another Munoz extra point put the Cubs on top, 14-0 with 11:04 remaining in the half.

A dead-ball personal foul against Slaton saw the Cubs kick off from the Tigers' own 45-yard line. An onside kick was almost recovered by several members of the Cubs special teams, but Slaton took over on their own

30-yard line.

The Cubs defense, on point all night, forced a three-and-out on the drive. The Tigers attempted to fake a punt on the next snap, but a swarm of Cub defenders pounced, giving Brownfield excellent field position with 8:36 left to play in the first half.

The resulting drive resulted in another touchdown, when Hill connected with Jordan Demps on a pass up the middle, allowing the receiver to trot unmoled into the end zone at the 6:06 mark to widen the gap to 21-0, Cubs.

A questionable call on third down of the Tigers' next possession appeared to rob Shaun Paiva of an interception, but the Cubs took over on downs after the next snap to maintain the three-touchdown advantage at the halftime buzzer.

Both squads traded possessions in the third quarter with

the Cubs' final try resulting in a 30-yard field goal attempt that narrowly missed left.

The Cubs continue to capitalize on Tiger mistakes and found themselves on the two-yard line with fewer than nine minutes remaining in the contest.

On the next snap, Hill kept the ball and went to the air with an impressive leap over players on both squads to find the end zone for the final time on the night.

A missed point-after left Brownfield leading Slaton 27-0 with 8:17 to play in the game.

A Tiger drive that threatened to score midway through the fourth quarter came to an abrupt close when Cade Powell picked off a Slaton pass on the right side.

A fumble on the next drive was recovered by Slaton, but a flagrant foul down field cost the Tigers the possession and moved Brownfield past midfield

with a first down.

Both teams swapped possession as the minutes dwindled off the clock.

The Brownfield defense came through again late in the game, halting the Tigers in Cub territory to secure the win and the shut-out.

Welps told his players after the win that it was a "great bounce back" after six weeks of disappointing losses.

"We did what we had to do and we saw how much potential we have when we stick to the game plan and play as a team," he said. "Everything worked on both sides of the ball tonight. Our offense moved the ball down field all night and our defense stepped up their game tremendously. I thought we could beat this team, but I didn't expect a shut-out."

The Cubs are on the road next week to take on district-foe Kermit.

Story and photos by Brian Brisendine, News Editor



Brownfield quarterback Shacolby Hill left Slaton defenders in his wake numerous times Friday night in the Cubs' shut-out win over the Tigers.



Brownfield defenders Simon Jacquez (#14) and Chris Benavidas (#52) lunged to bring down Slaton's quarterback in the fourth quarter of Friday night's shut-out of the Tigers.

## Eagles soar past Broncos in long-held rivalry game

By Josie Musico  
Staff Writer

The good news is that fans on both sides of the Terry-Hockley County line anticipating a close match from their top rivals weren't disappointed Friday night.

The bad news is that Bronco fans wanting a win and its accompanying guaranteed district championship did feel the sting of disappointment.

The Meadow Broncos (6-2) suffered a heart-breaking 48-37 loss to Ropes after trading leads with the Eagles a half-dozen times.

Head Coach Kent Allison said he was disappointed his Broncos seemed to have lost the self-confidence that helped them earn recent victories against tough opponents Follett, Nazareth and Anton.

"We didn't play fast, and we didn't play with the enthusiasm we'd been playing with," he said. "I don't know why we doubted ourselves after the way we played the last three games."

The Broncos scored early on a 30-yard run by junior running back Jonathan Flores. They were down 6-8 after an Eagle touchdown run, then back up 14-8 at the end of the first quarter after a pass from seniors Christian Herrera to Rafael

Urias in the end zone.

The home team stayed ahead most of the second quarter thanks to another touchdown run by Flores and a pass from Urias to senior Evan Esparza for a 29-28 halftime lead.

The Broncos were soon behind again when Ropes sophomore Jovan Molina scored on a long run early in the third, then back up after Herrera successfully threw to Urias past in the end zone.

Meadow maintained a 3-point lead until five minutes were left on the clock, when the Eagles turned the scoreboard around with a run by sophomore Lawrence Cruz. Cruz scored again on a longer run three minutes later to seal the Ropes victory.

The loss was particularly upsetting given the significance of the game. With only easier opponents Whiteface and Lubbock-Harmony and a bye week left on their schedule, a Ropes win would have guaranteed the district trophy.

The Broncos will almost certainly be runners-up in district, though, and could still have a chance at the championship if they win their next two games and Ropes loses at least one, then defeat both Ropes and Anton in a tie-breaker.

The Broncos will be back on the road next Friday to face Whiteface.



Bronco Evan Esparza took advantage of a block to pick up yardage Friday night against the Ropes Eagles.

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