

Playoff Bound!

By Brian Brisendine
News Editor

The Brownfield Cubs' 2012 season is a testament to never giving up.

A month ago, the Cubs were 1-5 and struggling to maintain the confidence needed to take the field every week.

Friday night, the Cubs improved their record to 4-5 with a 61-36 win over Lamesa and secured a spot in the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

Cubs Head Coach Bryan Welps reassured his players after the victory that he knew they have what it takes from the start.

"We set a goal to make the playoffs before we ever even put pads on in the summer," he said. "And now we're there and I couldn't be any prouder of these young men. They have grown up so much this season."

The Cubs confirmed Welps' observation by keeping their cool against the rival Golden Tomatoes, despite rough, sometimes dirty play and a scare in the second quarter when the Cubs let a 15-point lead morph into a nine-point disadvantage.

"We knew that they were going to play us hard," Coach Welps said after the game. "Lamesa is struggling this year and a lot of people thought it would be an easy win, but I never believed that. I know that Lamesa plays harder every year against Brownfield than they do anybody else and if we weren't careful, they could have gotten away from us."

The Golden Tors grabbed an early lead, reaching the end zone first on a 20-yard pass play at the 8:46 mark. A botched 2-point-conversion left the score at 6-0.

The Cubs answered quickly, with a touchdown run by Tae Williams on a pitch from quar-

terback Shacolby Hill with five minutes to play in the first quarter.

Kicker Michael Munoz -- perfect on the night -- put up his first of several extra points, giving the Cubs a 7-6 lead.

The Tors fumbled on their next possession, recovered by Cub Eddie Aguirre on the 37-yard-line with 3:32 to play in the opening frame.

Just a minute later, Hill hit Dylan Huston, who turned and sprinted 20 yards for the Cubs' second touchdown of the night. Another Munoz PAT widened the Cubs' lead to 14-6.

A minute and a half later, the Cubs were in the end zone again, this time on a one-yard rush by Williams with just a minute on the clock.

When the buzzer sounded ending the first quarter, Brownfield had a comfortable 21-6 lead.

The Tors put a scare on Cub fans in the second quarter, wracking up three unanswered touchdowns and adding a two-point conversion on each to go back on top, 30-21 with 2:25 until halftime.

The Cubs narrowed the Tors' advantage with a quarterback keep from the three-yard-line with 1:08 to play in the half, followed by a Munoz extra point to come within two points, 30-28.

The ensuing Cub kickoff sent several Tors scurrying away from the ball, which was recovered by Cub Rodney Warren with a diving, one-handed catch before it went out of bounds.

The Cubs had the ball again, this time on the Tors' 25-yard line, with 45 seconds left in the half.

A 20-plus yard run by Rockie Rey put the Cubs back on top and a quarterback keep for the two-point conversion sent the Cubs into the locker room at halftime on top, 36-30.

A keeper by quarterback Hill less than two min-

utes into the third quarter extended Brownfield's lead to 42-30. A two-point attempt failed.

Jordan Demps intercepted a Tor pass on Lamesa's next possession and returned it almost 70 yards before he was brought down at the 22-yard line.

Unfortunately, Lamesa quickly got an interception of their own and capitalized on the momentum, scoring their final touchdown of the contest with 6:43 in the third quarter.

Brownfield found the end zone two more times in the third period.

A two-yard run by Williams with 3:04 remaining in the quarter, then a keeper by Hill for a 50-yard touchdown run with 1:21 to go. Another Munoz PAT gave the Cubs a 55-36 advantage.

The Cub defense made several big stops in the final quarter, including one at the 9:00 mark that gave the Cubs the ball, resulting in the final touchdown of the game on a one-yard run by Hill with 6:32 left in the game.

The Cubs combined for 612 yards offense

against the Tors, including 124 yards passing on 10 attempts and 488 yards on the ground on 42 rushes.

Brownfield had 20 first downs in the contest. Hill rushed for 280 yards and three touchdowns on 19 carries.

He also threw for 124 yards, completing 10 of 13 passes.

Williams wracked up 158 yards on the ground and four touchdowns on 17 rushes.

Rey had six attempts and picked up 50 yards and a score.

Shaun Paiva had seven catches on the night for 93 yards, followed by Huston's single catch for 21 yards and a touchdown. Demps had two catches worth 10 yards.

Coach Welps congratulated his team after the win, even after the boys doused him with the ritual Gatorade bath as the seconds dwindled.

"We're in the playoffs," he said. "Next week we play Denver City for second place in our district. We need to beat them and we can."



Brownfield Cub Shaun Paiva outran a Lamesa defender for a few extra yards Friday night in the Cubs' 2-2A playoff clinching win over the Golden Tors.



Cub quarterback Shacolby Hill passed the ball to the outside over the head of Rockie Rey with protection from Bradley Bandy Friday night in Brownfield victory over Lamesa.

Find more than 200 additional photos of all the action under the Friday Night Lights in Cub Stadium at...
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Longhorns are too much for Wildcats

By Josie Musico, Staff Writer

Wellman-Union suffered another loss Friday that wasn't any easier to take than the eight before it.

In their second-to-last game of a single-victory season, the Wildcats hosted Loop, handing the Longhorns a 35-12 win and a 2-0 district record and likely a playoff spot.

The 'Cats' only touchdowns were on an 11-yard run from sophomore Luis Gonzales two minutes into the game and a 31-yard pass from Kolby Chase to Kaleb Chase early in the fourth. Neither attempt at a post-touchdown extra-point kick landed.

The Longhorns passed a touchdown in the first quarter and ran one in the second for a 14-6 halftime lead, then ran to their end zone twice more in the third and scored on another pass. Meanwhile, the home team was scoreless mid-game two full quarters.

The 'Cats had 42 rushing attempts for 107 total yards and completed three of seven passing attempts for 48 total yards. They had seven first downs, four turnovers and six penalties for 65 yards.

The Longhorns had eight rushing attempts for 94 total yards and completed six of 12 passing attempts for 107 total yards. They had four first downs, two turnovers and five penalties for 29 yards.

The 'Cats will be back on the road next Friday to wrap up their season in Sands.

Head coach Roger Chase declined to comment to the *Brownfield News* following the game. Assistant Coach Eric Erwin provided the statistics.



Wildcat Nathaniel Steiger brings down a Longhorn runner.



Brothers Kaleb and Kolby Chase bring down a Loop runner.