

Bixby Romps Past Enid 56-14, Hosting Mustang Friday

By Ron Holt

ENID – Receiving point production from both the offense and defense, Bixby celebrated fall break by taking command early in romping to a 56-14 victory over the Enid Plainsmen in a Class 6A-1 District 1 game at D. Bruce Selby Stadium here last Thursday night.

The second-ranked Spartans improved to 6-1 overall this season while taking sole possession of the district race with a 4-0 record. Bixby returns to Lee Snider Field Friday (Oct. 25) for a district confrontation with the Mustang Broncos.

Bixby was ready to play from the outset, in all phases. Two early lengthy drives ended in touchdowns while the Spartan defenders contributed with a pair of pick-sixes by juniors Trey McGlothlin and Nathan Gonzales en route to an early 28-0 first quarter lead.

“On a short week our guys practiced pretty well and came out tonight and executed pretty well from the start,” veteran Spartan head coach Loren Montgomery said. “Offensively, I feel like we’re gaining on it ... we’re starting to get an identity on how we’re going to move the ball. We had a lot of guys touch the ball tonight.

“That pick six by Trey was a big play right off the bat. That’s two weeks in a row for Trey. And then Nathan stepped up and got another one later.”

Bixby took the opening kickoff and put together an 80-yard, nine-play drive which ended in a one-yard touchdown run by senior Cooper Parker with 8:51 showing in the first quarter. Bradley Tao kicked the point-after.

The opening drive was highlighted by a 43-yard pass from junior quarterback Carson Kirby to junior wide receiver Tyler Wright, an 11-yard pass from Kirby to junior Cord Nolan and a 16-yard pass from Kirby to senior Blake Hogshooter.

On Enid’s second play of the game, McGlothlin intercepted a pass by Enid senior quarterback Aidan Robinson and raced uncontested to the end zone giving the Spartans a 14-0 lead with 8:03 showing after Tao kicked another conversion.

Last week, the 6-1, 184-pound McGlothlin intercepted an Edmond North pass, returning it for a touchdown. In a regular season game with Enid on Oct. 6, 2023, he also returned a pass interception for a touchdown.

“That’s two years in a row they threw it straight to me ... it was the same team, same quarterback and same side of the field,” said a smiling McGlothlin, who has two picks this season. “I’m just a little more confident out there this year.

“I felt we had to bring the energy out here tonight. We had a good week of practice. It doesn’t matter if it’s fall break or not, we still practice hard. We’re getting better,” he added.

Bixby stalled on its second offensive possession before driving 50 yards in eight plays with the drive ending on a 16-yard TD run by Parker, who broke a couple of early tackle attempts before finding open space. Bixby failed on a conversion pass but held a 20-0 lead with 2:24 left in the first quarter.

Three plays into Enid’s next offensive possession, Gonzales, a 5-8, 138-pound defensive back, intercepted a Robinson pass near the sideline, made a move and followed a convoy of blockers to the end for a 20-yard TD return. Kirby’s conversion pass to Braeden Presley made it a 28-0 game with eight seconds left in the first stanza.

“It came right to me. I made one juke and then saw green grass and ran it in,” said Gonzales, who also caught a 30-yard TD pass from Kirby in the third quarter. “We were playing back but I saw him throw the corner route and I jumped it. It felt amazing.

“I felt like we executed well but we can do better offensively but at the end of the day we got the ‘W’ and we’re looking forward to next week. We take no days off ... we work hard and we’re out there hustling all the time,” he noted.

Enid avoided a shutout when Robinson scrambled away from pressure before hitting speedy sophomore receiver Keon Young for a 79-yard TD pass. The Plainsmen's left-footed kicker Juan Chavez kicked the extra point, narrowing the gap to 28-7 at the 11:48 mark of the second quarter.

Bixby regained control on its next possession as Parker scored his third TD of the game on a two-yard run and Tao kicked the conversion for a 35-7 Spartan lead followed by a five-yard scoring pass from Kirby to Hogshooter with 40 seconds left giving Bixby a 42-7 lead at halftime.

Bixby's first possession in the third quarter resulted in a 30-yard touchdown pass from Kirby to Gonzales. Tao's extra point kick made it a 49-7 game with eight minutes showing. The Spartans scoring ended when freshman BJ Jones scored from a yard out late in the fourth quarter.

Enid's tandem of Robinson to Young clicked for an eight-yard TD also in the fourth quarter.

Kirby had another efficient outing, completing 14-of-23 passes for 181 yards and two touchdowns. In addition, he rushed for 13 yards, leading the Spartans in total yards with 194. Jones led the ground attack with 87 yards and one TD on 10 carries while Parker had 61 yards on 10 carries.

Wright paced the Spartan receivers with 57 yards on four catches while Hogshooter caught four passes for 50 yards and one score.

Defensively, Bixby's starters saw limited action in the second half as 25 Spartans recorded tackles.

Sophomore defensive back Brody Scott led BHS in tackles with eight, including five unassisted stops.

Junior Cord Nolan and senior Dob Doh were credited with tackles for loss.

Hector Garcia and Kaden Penny were credited with sacks. Garcia sacked Enid's Robinson near the Plainsmen's one-yard line the play before Gonzales' return of a pass interception for a TD.

"The d-line played better than last week. Our pass rush moves were better than last week ... we got some sacks and that's good," Garcia said. "It's always our game plan to first stop the run and then rush the passer."

NEXT GAME – Bixby returns to Lee Snider Field Friday (Oct. 25) for a District 1 battle with visiting Mustang. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

Ninth-ranked Mustang, coached by Lee Blankenship, 5-2 overall and 2-2 in district, captured a 45-27 victory at Edmond North Friday. The Broncos built up a sizeable first half lead before Edmond North rallied during the final half to make the game closer.

In non-district play this season, Mustang won 52-14 at Yukon, edged visiting Broken Arrow, 49-48, and downed visiting Westmoore, 54-30. In league play, the Broncos fell 21-20 to visiting Moore, won 33-32 at Enid and lost 45-13 against visiting Jenks prior to the Edmond North game.

There's a short history in games involving Bixby and Mustang. In 2010, Bixby's first season in Class 6A, the Spartans lost 47-21 at home to Mustang while in 2011, Bixby fell 27-14 at Mustang.

"We've seen them the last couple of weeks and it looks like they run the quarterback a lot and they have a big, physical line," Coach Montgomery said. "Defensively, they have a couple of defensive tackles who are good."

The Sports Animal, FM-97.1, will broadcast the Mustang at Bixby game Friday with Shawn Tiemann providing the play-by-play description and Mark Wozniak offering color commentary.

NOTABLES – Bixby has won 80 of its last 82 games and six in a row this season. ... In the last three regular season games with Enid, the Spartans have intercepted 10 Plainsmen passes and returned four picks for touchdowns. ... At Enid, eight Spartans ran the ball and six caught passes. ... Through seven games, quarterback Carson Kirby has passed for 1,545 yards and 15 touchdowns while being intercepted seven times. He's completing .687 per cent of his passes and averaging 220.7 yards per game. Kirby is also the rushing leader with 377 yards and three TDs on 48 attempts. Cooper Parker has 333 yards and nine touchdowns; BJ Jones has 232 yards rushing and two TDs and Bode Cairl has 251 rushing yards and four TDs. Blake Hogshooter is the receiving leader with 31 catches for 535 yards and six scores followed by Cord Nolan with 20 catches for 286 yards and one TD and Tyler Wright with 19 grabs for 268 yards and two TDs. ... Defensively, linebacker Cooper Parker leads with 59 total tackles followed by Cord Nolan with 54 tackles. Nolan leads the team with 10 tackles for loss, Parker leads in solo tackles with 40, Joe Peters and Nolan lead in sacks with three each while Nathan Hobbs is credited with 2.5 sacks. Emory Snyder tops the team in pass interceptions with three. ... Spartan kicker Bradley Tao was a perfect six-for-

six on extra point attempts at Enid and averaged 62.7 yards on nine kickoffs. This season, Tao is 37-for-37 on extra point tries. ... Spartan captains at Enid were Cord Nolan, Cooper Parker, Braeden Presley and Beckham Hooper.

‘D’ LINE – With limited varsity experience, Bixby’s defensive line continues along an improvement path this season while capable depth is also being developed.

“The three starters tonight were Kaden Penny, Joe Peters and Dawson Madden. Penny is the noseguard, Peters a defensive tackle and Madden the defensive end” said Kaden Jackson, the Spartans’ fourth-year defensive line coach. “Hector Garcia and Peyton Chronister also play.

“None of them started last year but Chronister and Madden rotated in. I’ve been pleased from day one ... they give me their full effort and are very coachable. They always run to the football ... I never question that. They do everything I ask of them.

“I think we’re gaining depth,” he added. “We’ve got some young guys doing really well. Garcia is one of those guys who took his role and stepped up with KP (Penny) going both ways. He’s doing a good job for us. They just keep improving, they are constantly working on their technique and working to get better.” Chronister is a 6-1, 176-pound senior lineman, Penny is a 6-3, 280-pound sophomore noseguard, Madden is a 6-1, 193-pound junior end, Peters is a 6-1, 205-pound junior lineman and Garcia is a 5-10, 227-pound junior.

OPPONENTS – Scores from Bixby opponents last week included Owasso (7-0) 46, Edmond Memorial 14; Sand Springs (5-2) 56, Putnam City West 0; Choctaw (5-2) 35, Stillwater 28; Jenks 28, Deer Creek-Edmond 0; Norman 42, Moore 35; Mustang 45, Edmond North 27.

Class 6A-1 District 1 standings: Bixby (6-1, 4-0), Deer Creek (6-1, 3-1), Norman (6-1, 3-1) Jenks (4-3, 3-1), Mustang (5-2, 2-2), Moore (4-3, 1-3), Edmond North (2-5, 0-4), Enid (2-5, 0-4). This week’s other district games: Jenks at Moore, Edmond North at Enid and Deer Creek at Norman.

Bixby 56, Enid 14

FIRST QUARTER

BHS – Cooper Parker 1 run (Bradley Tao kick), 8:51

BHS – Trey McGlothlin 25 pass interception return (Tao kick), 8:03

BHS – Parker 18 run (pass failed), 2:24

BHS – Nathan Gonzales 40 pass interception return (Carson Kirby pass to Braeden Presley), :08

SECOND QUARTER

EHS – Keon Young 79 pass from Aidan Robinson (Juan Chavez kick), 11:48

BHS – Parker 2 run (Tao kick), 9:36

BHS – Blake Hogshooter 5 pass from Kirby (Tao kick), :40

THIRD QUARTER

BHS – Gonzales 30 pass from Kirby (Tao kick), 8:00

FOURTH QUARTER

EHS – Young 8 pass from Robinson (Chavez kick)

BHS – Brian ‘BJ’ Jones 1 run (Tao kick),