

Westphalia Defeats McDade to Stay Unbeaten on the Year

In the first ever meeting between the two K-8 school districts, the Westphalia Blue Jays used the strong arm of quarterback Tyler Willberg to defeat the McDade Bulldogs 39-14 last Thursday in McDade. In the first road game of the year for the Blue Jays, Willberg threw 5 touchdowns, including three to running back/split end Andrew Fajardo, to keep the Blue Jays unbeaten. Another strong defensive effort from the Jays limited the Bulldogs to one offensive touchdown while forcing two turnovers on the night as the Blue Jays cruised to victory.

Despite the apparent dominance by the Jays, the game did not start off well for Westphalia. McDade returned the opening kickoff 65 yards and converted the extra point to take a quick 7-0. The Blue Jays answered right back on their first offensive play when Willberg hit Fajardo for a 55-yard touchdown pass. Running back Ross Ashford was stopped on the point after attempt, and McDade held an early 7-6 lead. The score remained the same until the second quarter when the Blue Jays finally awoke from their stupor. Willberg threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Fajardo on a fourth and long and Fajardo's extra point put the Jays up 13-7. The Bulldogs next offensive series was ended when Blue Jay defender Collin Doscocil intercepted a Bulldog pass and returned the ball to the McDade 25-yard line. This time, the Jays used strong running by running back Ross Ashford to score their only rushing touchdown of the night. Again the defense held strong, and a quick turnover on downs gave the ball to the Blue Jays with less than a minute on the clock. Willberg once again connected with Fajardo on a long touchdown pass, and while the extra point attempt failed, the Blue Jays went into half with a 26-7 lead.

The second half started the way the first half ended, with another Westphalia touchdown and yet another Tyler Willberg touchdown pass. This time, Willberg was able to avoid the rush to find end Dawson Hering for a 10-yard touchdown pass. Back-up quarterback Brett Willberg completed a slant pass to cousin Teran Willberg to give the Jays a 33-7 lead. The score remained the same until early in the fourth quarter when Tyler Willberg found a wide open Teran Willberg to push the lead to 39-7. The Blue Jays defense held the rushing attack of the Blue Jays in check most of the night until, with four minutes to go in the fourth quarter, a Bulldog back that seemed to be hemmed up in the backfield broke out of a pile of players and rushed for a 65-yard touchdown run. The Blue Jays appeared to give life back to the Bulldogs when quarterback Brett Willberg fumbled the snap on the ensuing possession, but defensive end Andrew Fajardo ripped the ball from a Bulldog running back and recovered the fumble giving the ball back to the Jays. The Blue Jays were able to run out the clock to seal the victory.

Offensively, the Blue Jays offensive line of Dawson Hering, Joe Arney, and Luis Vazquez were able to complete their third straight game without allowing a sack. They also opened up holes for Fajardo, Ashford, Teran Willberg, and Latham Hoff all night. Defensively, Tyler Willberg and Andrew Fajardo were a constant force in the backfield, forcing Bulldog backs to turn up field prematurely where Collin Doscocil, Evan Randazzo, Ross Ashford, Teran Willberg, and Latham Hoff were able to make several tackles.

When asked about the game, Westphalia coach Mark Vaught said he was proud of his teams efforts, adding that McDade was really the first team all year that compete with the Blue Jays physically. "They were big and had some really good athletes," said Vaught, "and I could tell that we were a little bit shell-shocked at the beginning of the game. This was the first game [Tyler] Willberg had any type of pressure. They definitely forced him to move around in the pocket, but he was obviously up to the challenge. Despite McDade's strong defensive effort, we were able to turn it on in the second quarter and we kept building throughout the game. We have yet to play to our potential, but it was good to see us building up momentum throughout the game. Hopefully, we can put it all together over the next couple of weeks and finally play four quarters of solid football."

The Blue Jays hit the road again on their next game as they travel to Buckholts.