



By JASON EPP

Leader & Times

TURPIN—The Hooker Bulldogs started out district play on fire, busting out to a 20-0 halftime lead on the road at Turpin. And after a Turpin rally, Hooker righted their ship to pick up a 32-22 win.

“I think they rebounded well after the last couple of weeks and played a good game,” Bulldogs coach Jacob Creamer said. “We changed a few things and they responded to it real well, and I’m real happy with the effort they put forth.”

The Bulldogs started the game well; taking a 7-0 lead after Taylor McBee punched a run in from the 1-yard line with 5:15 left in the first.

John Godfrey scored with 3.2 second left in the first quarter to put Hooker up 13-0 heading into the second quarter. A 12-yard TD run by McBee made the score 20-0 with 7:15 still left in the second quarter.

Hooker then recovered the ensuing kick at the Turpin 32-yard line, and it looked as though the rout was on.

But Turpin forced a failed field goal attempt, and kept Hooker from making the score any worse before half.

"It's frustrating," Cardinals coach Justin Hannah said. "To win you have to learn how to put four good quarters together. We can't have a good half and a bad half. We must stop having pointless penalties, and too many missed assignments. We've got to get it cleaned up. To play physical in the second half was great, but we have to do that the whole game."

Hooker held Turpin to minus-5 yards of total offense in the first half.

The second half was a different story. Turpin took their opening drive of the second half, and got on the board with a 3-yard TD run by Kyler Musgrave.

Turpin's Jordan Lujan hit Matt Young in the left flat, and Young did the rest on a 20-yard touchdown. The 2-point conversion was good to bring Turpin within six, 20-14 with 10:17 left in the game.

But Hooker put the ball back in the hands of their running game coupled with Turpin's loss of composure (multiple personal foul penalties) took back control of the game, and pushed the lead back to 18, 32-14 late in the fourth.

Turpin added one more score in the final minute, but the Bulldogs had secured a district win.

"Our line did a great job in the first half," Kreamer said. "I think we got a little winded in the second half, so we're going to have to work on our conditioning this week. I thought our guys played with a lot of heart, and couldn't ask for more than that."

Hooker holds off late Cardinal rally

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Turpin gained 170 yards in the second half to finish the game with 165 yards of offense, 59 yards rushing on 37 carries, and 106 yards passing on 10-20 passing with 2TDs.

“The difference in the halves was all attitude and effort,” Hannah said.

Hooker (1-2, 1-0) will travel to Okeene Friday. Turpin (0-3, 0-1) will travel to Fairview Friday.