

By JASON EPP

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The Tyrone Bobcats saw their season come to an end Friday night while the Balko Bison propelled themselves into the playoffs with a 66-16 win.



“They’re where we want to be,” Bobcat coach Josh Bell said. “They are physically and mentally tough, and they run the ball with an attitude. But our young team didn’t lie down. They fought.”

Balko opened the game with a long touchdown drive that took almost half of the first quarter. Tyrone had an opportunity to answer, but a dropped pass by a receiver who had gotten behind the Bison defense ended the drive.

Balko then went on the attack and led 24-0 by the end of the first quarter, and extended the lead to 34-0.

Tyrone managed to get on the board before half, but still trailed 34-0.

The Bobcats scored again early in the third to at least put some doubt in the visiting Bison, cutting the lead to 34-16.

But it was all Bison from that point on, as Balko reeled off 32 unanswered points.

Tyrone season ends with a 2-7 record, but Bell sees a bright future for his Bobcats.

“We started three freshmen almost every game,” Bell said. “We also started some sophomores and those guys gained some valuable experience. We had opportunities that slipped away this year, but that’s all a part of the learning process.

No.6 Balko (7-2) will travel to No.8 Corn Bible for their first round playoff game. Balko beat the Crusaders 62-14 earlier in the season.