



By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

The Chase County Longhorns put up 17 points in the first quarter en route to a 38-0 win over Gordon-Rushville in the season opener at Gordon Friday.

“This was a good way to start the season,” Head Coach Dan Lenners told his players after the game.

He told them their summer conditioning and pre-season practices have built a solid foundation for them to build on.

“We still have a long ways to go,” he said this week, but he liked what he saw in the opener.

After building a 38-0 lead in the first half, Lenners said his team suffered a little letdown in the second half.

Frankly, he expected a tougher contest from G-R. As a result, he said it’s hard to pinpoint the areas his team needs to work on.

But they’ll get a better idea of where they stand when they play host to Sidney Friday.

Sidney comes in 0-2 but their two losses have come at the hands of Grand Island Northwest and Holdrege.



17 points in first 12 minutes

David Almanza got the Longhorns on the board first Friday night with a 37-yard field goal.

The drive was set up on an interception by Michael May, followed by a 27-yard pass from Kale Gockley to Kelton Fisher.

The defense answered, forcing G-R into a three-and-out to set up the Longhorns first touchdown drive.

Starting at their own 36, the Longhorns stayed on the ground as tailback Trey Milner chewed up the yards.

He capped the drive, bolting through the middle and breaking outside for the 14-yard score with 4:28 left in the first quarter.

It was another three-and-out for G-R to set up another first-quarter score.

Starting at their own 33, the Longhorns stayed on the ground for three plays, passing midfield. That’s when they went to the air again with Gockley finding Hunter Spady all alone behind the defense for a 49-yard scoring strike.

Almanza’s kick made the score 17-0 with 56 seconds left in the quarter.

Gordon-Rushville got a big return on the kickoff, passing midfield. They connected on a pair of

passes to move inside the Longhorn 35. That's when the defense said that was enough.

They held G-R on a fourth-down conversion to end the drive and take over.

Despite having to punt the ball away, the defense came up with another three-and-out to set up the Longhorn's next score of the half.

Starting at their own 20, the Longhorns needed just three plays to hit paydirt again.

On the opening play of the drive, tailback Dan Sullivan got around the corner of the defense and into the open. He raced 62 yards before being brought down at the G-R 18.

Two plays later, Milner went in from 11 yards out. Almanza's kick gave the Longhorns a 24-0 lead with 7:25 left in the half.

Twelve seconds later, the Longhorns put up another six points when G-R coughed up the kickoff and May picked it up inside the 5 and went in for the score.

On the ensuing kickoff, Almanza made a touchdown-saving tackle near mid-field.

Despite their field position, G-R couldn't sustain the drive, turning the ball over on downs at the Longhorn 38.

In three plays, the Longhorns moved inside the 10 on runs from fullback Justin German, May and Sullivan.

Gockley got the score on a fourth-and-inches. Almanza added the extra point for a 38-0 lead with 2:27 left in the half.

Since the Longhorns led by more than 35 points, the teams played with a running clock in the second half.

Despite coming out flat after halftime, the Longhorns maintained their shutout and moved to 1-0 for the season.

They will play at home Friday for the first time this season when Sidney comes to Imperial for a 7 p.m. MT kickoff.

Stats at a glance

Gordon-Rushville

Tackles (solos-assists)—Dan Sullivan, 1-5; Justus Wallin, 2-3; Justin German, 3-1; Kale Gockley 0-1; Trey Milner, 1-3; Kelton Fisher, 1-3; Callin Ledall, 1-0; Michael May, 1-3; Hunter Spady, 2-1; Jeff Dickey, 1-3; Shay Eidson, 1-2; Khris Kuhlman, 2-0; Jacob Lueth, 0-1; Fred Kasselmann, 0-1; Sam Cahow, 0-1; Sam Haarberg, 1-0; David Almanza, 1-0.

Rushing (attempts-yards-TD)—Dan Sullivan, 8-109-0; Trey Milner, 14-102-2; Justin German, 6-60-0; Kale Gockley, 6-15-0; Jacob Lueth, 1-15-0; Michael May, 1-10-0; Khris Kuhlman, 1-8-0. TEAM: 37-319-3-0.

Passing (attempts-completions/yards-TD-INT)—Kale Gockley, 2-6/76-1-0. Kelton Fisher, 0-1/0-0-0.

Receiving (completions-yards-TDs)—Hunter Spady, 1-49-1; Kelton Fisher, 1-27-0. TEAM: 2-76-1.

Fumble recovery Michael May, 1 (TD); Jeff Dickey, 1.

Interceptions Michael May, 1.

Scoring

CCS: 37-yard field goal, David Almanza

CCS: 14-yard run, Trey Milner; PAT kick by David Almanza

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CCS: 49-yard pass, Kale Gockley to Spady Hunter; PAT kick by David Almanza

CCS: 11-yard run, Trey Milner; PAT kick by David Almanza

CCS: 4-yard fumble recovery, Michael May; PAT kick by David Almanza

CCS: 1-yard run, Kale Gockley; PAT kick by David Almanza

CCS 17 21 0 0—38

G-R 0 0 0 0—0