

# Dogs Record First Win of Season

By Hope Lenamon  
The McGregor Bulldogs made a statement at home last Friday as they defeated the Jarrell Cougars, 56-35, in their first win of the season.

Head Coach Mike Shields said the win was important to have under the teams' belt heading into their final non-conference game and district play.

"It was good for the kids," Shields said. "We've been playing hard... But for their confidence and their morale, we needed it to happen."

The Bulldogs took control of the game early on, scoring during the first possession of the night, and never gave up their lead. Throughout the first half, McGregor went on to score four more times, including a touchdown made possible by a 42-yard interception from sophomore Darius Dixon. The Cougars mustered three touchdowns of their own, and the Bulldogs led 35-20 as both teams headed to the locker room.

Play resumed with a Jarrell drive that ate up more than half of the third quarter. The possession ended on a fourth down when the Bulldogs stopped the Cougars just yards from the goal. On the next play, senior quarterback VeAndre McDaniel took off for an impressive 97-yard touchdown run.

McDaniel is no stranger to long runs. His sophomore year, Shields said the quarterback rushed for a 99-yard touchdown. On Friday, McDaniel and junior Chad Lorenz rushed for 180 and 126-yards, respectively, and earned a nomination to the Waco Tribune Central Texas Honor Roll. In fact, the entire game was run driven—some-

thing Shields said the entire team knew was only possible because of the offensive line's performance.

"When we're rushing for that much, the offensive line is doing a good job," Shields said. "So, you know, sometimes that offensive and defensive line are unsung heroes."

Although the Cougars had some semblance of a rally in the last 12-minutes of play—closing the Bulldogs lead to 14-points and recovering a fumble—they did not have enough time or steam to leash the Dogs. On a fourth down attempt from the 38-yard line, senior Reese Huffman sacked Jarrell's quarterback for a loss of five yards. The move allowed for a final Bulldog touchdown before the final buzzer sounded.

Offensively, McDaniel completed six of nine pass attempts for 96 yards and three touchdowns. Senior Ashton Vining had three receptions at 69-yards for two touchdowns. Juniors Coby Reineke and Jacob Ables rushed for 35 and 10-yards and had a touchdown apiece. Freshman Kaiser Medina made all eight attempted field goals.

Defensively, senior Colby Franks led the team with 11 tackles, two of which were for losses, and had a quarterback sack. Senior Campbell McCauley recorded nine tackles, one of which was for a loss. Senior Dayton Threadgill and Dixon also had nine tackles apiece.

On Friday, September 18, McGregor will travel to Arlington for a 7 p.m. battle against the Oakridge Owls. The matchup will be the Owls' first game of the season, the Bulldogs' only game of the season to be played on



VeAndre McDaniel finds an opening in the Jarrell Cougars defense, thanks to the help of his offensive line, and rushes in for a touchdown.

a grass field.

"It's not going to be an easy game," Shields said of what he called the well-

coached team. "We have to show up."

Fans may purchase tickets according to the schedule

available at <http://www.mcgregor-isd.org/athletics>. The stadium has limited bleacher seating, and spectators are al-

lowed to bring folding chairs to sit along either side of the visitor bleachers.



Caleb Carmichael runs the ball down the field. Carmichael rushed for 49-yards and had 8 tackles against Jarrell.



Zach Williams runs the ball past a Cougar defender during the Bulldogs first win of the season.



Dayton Threadgill, #1, and Cooper Burgess, #9, sing the school song with their teammates after the Bulldogs defeat the Cougars 56-35. The dogs are now 2-1 in non-district play. Photos by Hope Lenamon



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