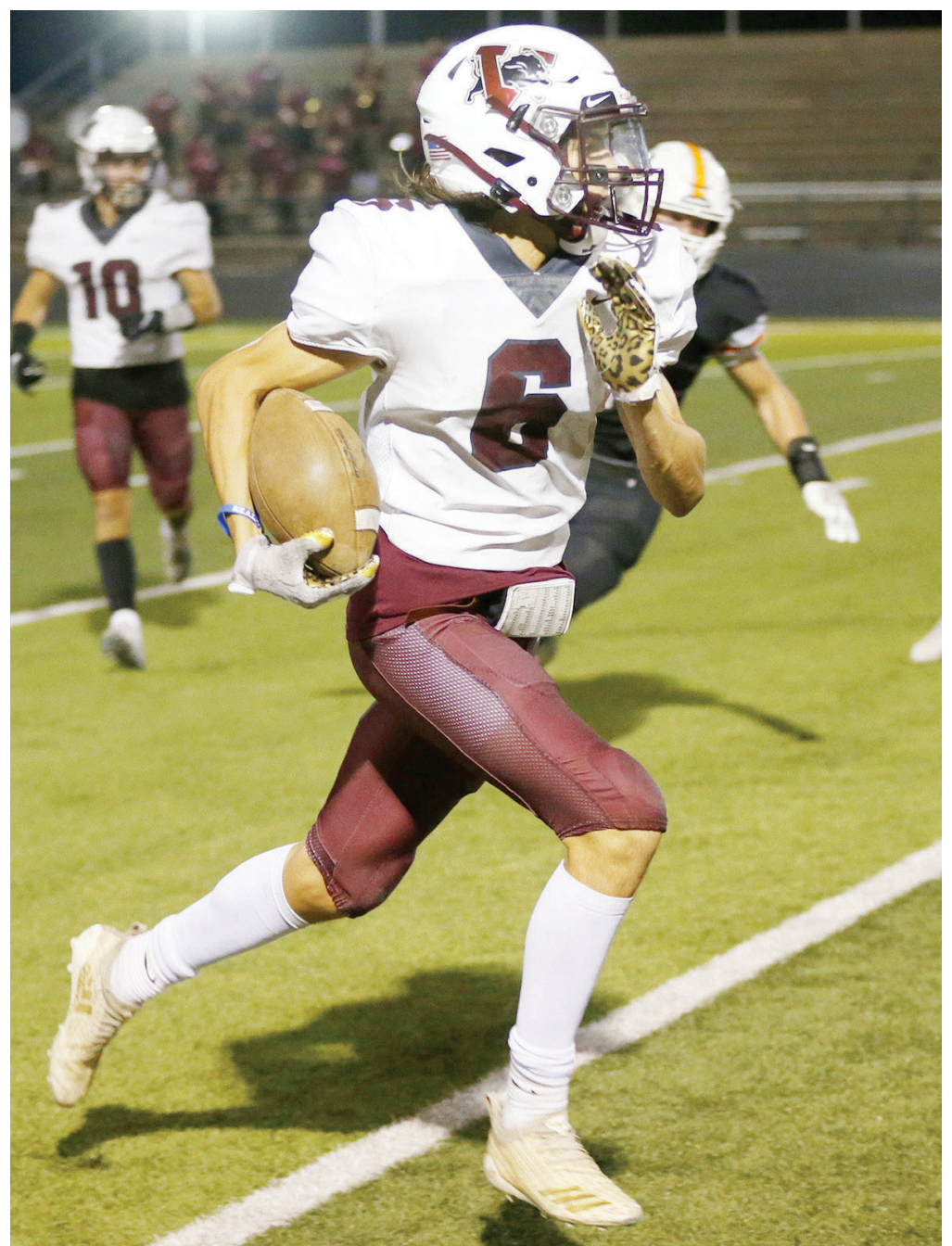


Lions come up short in loss to Burkburnett, 28-22

The Vernon Lions offense is improving each week, but it wasn't quiet enough to get the lions in the win column last Friday, as they fell 28-22 to the Burkburnett Bulldogs. The Lions fell behind early 7-0, on a 68-yard run from Burk's Mason Duke on the Bulldog's opening drive of the game. Then the Lions kicked it in gear. Christian Ochoa punched in a score from the 2, and with Javier Perez adding the extra point, it was 7-7 with 5:10

left in the first quarter. The Lions defense put the next score on the board. Burk was pinned deep, and Duke mishandled a snap and then rolled right. Vernon's Joseph Boone pulled Duke down in the endzone for a safety and a 9-2 lead at the 10:42 mark of the second quarter. Later in the quarter, Vernon got its first big play score of the season, a 75-yard run from Deveon Willie. Perez kick gave 16-7 lead with 3:31 left in

has amassed as a team. Welborn ran for 259 yards and three scores vs. Lake Worth in a 49-35 win. He also had 91 receiving yards in that game. Indians quarterback Rylan Smart threw for 239 yards and four scores in the same game. Zach Shepard is the top receiver, catching 7 for 164 yards against Howe. Two weeks ago, the Indians played Canton in their closest game of the year, a 27-26 win. Welborn had 189 rushing yards and 4 scores. Smart passed for 146 yards. Sanger stopped a two-point conversion by Canton with a minute left on the clock to get the win. Last week, in a 48-6 win over Venus, Welborn had 10 carries for 184 yards and 4 TDs. Smart threw for 94 yards while completing 11 of 18 passes. For the Lions to have a chance, they will need to keep Welborn in check. The Indians defense is susceptible to big passing plays, they gave up 414 passing yards to Lake Worth including scores of 60, 66 and 55 yards. They are built around linebackers Creed Carter and Carson Stamper, who the coach says are "extremely aggressive." The coach credits them with 2/3s of the team's tackles. The Lions will need to keep them blocked at the second level to have a productive ground game.



Vernon's Jordan Garcia scores on a 39-yard pass from Jacob Boatman in the fourth quarter of last Friday's game. Garcia had two catches for 46 yards in the game. Richard Cleaver/Vernon Record



Vernon's Deveon Willie outruns the Burkburnett defense on his way to a 75-yard touchdown in Friday's game. Richard Cleaver/Vernon Record

BY THE NUMBERS

VERNON 7906-22
BURKBURNETT 7786-29

FIRST QUARTER
B - MASON DUKE 68 RUN (RYLAN STRINGFELLOW KICK), 10:34
V - CHRISTIAN OCHOA 2 RUN (JAVIER

PEREZ KICK), 5:10

SECOND QUARTER
V - JOSEPH BOONE TACKLE OF DUKE, SAFETY, 10:42
V - DEVEON WILLIE 75 RUN (PEREZ KICK), 3:31
B - BLADEN BINER 8 PASS FROM DUKE (STRINGFELLOW KICK), 0:19
THIRD QUARTER
B - CAYDEN BLANTON 17 PASS FROM DUKE

(BINER PASS FROM DUKE), 0:20

FOURTH QUARTER
B - BINER 80 PASS FROM DUKE (PASS FAIL), 8:51
V - JORDAN GARCIA 39 PASS FROM JACOB BOATMAN (KICK FAIL), 8:31

STATS

FIRST DOWNS: (V) 10; (B) 14 RUSHING: (V) 31-206; (B) 21-79 PASSING: (V) 9-21-1-112; (B) 20-36-0-285 PUNTS: (V)

4-98.3; (B) 6-42.7 FUMBLES: (V) 1-1; (B) 0-0 PENALTIES: (V) 8-75; (B) 10-62

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING: JACOB BOATMAN 9-20-116 1/1 RUSHING: DEVEON WILLIE 7-115; CHRISTIAN OCHOA 16-60; CHRIS DENNIS 3-7; JACOB BOATMAN 4-15; CJ JOHNSON 1-9. RECEIVING: JORDAN GARCIA 2-46; GARRETT PIERCE 2-17; JOSEPH BOONE 1-15; KOLTON FREEMAN 1-13.

the half. In what would prove to be a big momentum boost, Burkburnett was able to beat the halftime buzzer, and drive the field for a score. Duke hit Bladen Biner with an 8-yard pass with 19 seconds left in the half and it was 16-14 Vernon ahead at the break. Burkburnett carried the momentum into the second half, going up 22-16 on a 17-yard pass from Duke to Cayden Blanton in the third quarter; and then 28-16 on a back-breaking 80-yard pass to Biner. The Lions responded with Jacob Boatman throwing a 39-yard score to Jordan Garcia with 8:31 left in the game, for the final margin of 28-22.

Indians (5-0) for Homecoming on Friday, Oct. 2. The game time has been moved back to 7:30 p.m., instead of the scheduled 7 p.m. Sanger is averaging 38 points per game and giving up 14.5 ppg. Vernon is averaging 10.6 points per game and giving up 26.6 ppg. The Indians are enjoying an newfound success -- they had only one won game (Vernon's district foe Mineral Wells last year) over the previous two seasons, but are on an impressive five-game win streak. The Indians offense is built around running back Tallyn Welborn (6-3, 245 lb. senior). Welborn is described as a bulldozer, who loves to run straight ahead. Welborn has rushed for 896 yards and 16 TDs this season - more total yards than Vernon



Vernon's Christian Ochoa plows in a touchdown from 2 yards out in the first quarter against Burkburnett on Friday. Ochoa had 16 carries for 60 yards in the game. Richard Cleaver/Vernon Record

UP NEXT

Vernon (0-5) will host the unbeaten Sanger

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