

SPORTS

Speedy Sullivan/Okaw Valley zooms past Arcola 54-6

By Mike Monahan

SULLIVAN – The first quarter seemed like the Lincoln Prairie Conference football game would be a high scoring game as Sullivan/Okaw Valley led Arcola 13-6 heading into the second. However, the scoring stopped for the Purple Riders, but continued for the Redskins as they tallied 28 points in the second to take a commanding 41-6 lead at the half. Sullivan added 13 more points in the second half as they improved to 2-0 with a resounding 54-6 triumph Friday at Victory Field with a new scoreboard.

"We knew they were going to compete hard," said Sullivan coach John Bertetto, who is 7-10 in his third season (including 5-0 in the COVID-19 season of 2021). Bertetto was an assistant starting in 2008. "We knew their size up front was going to give us trouble. We were hoping to utilize our speed a little bit tonight. After the first couple of drives we got some things rolling and it was good for us. They worked their butts off the whole game."

Sullivan scored first as they marched 69 yards in just five plays with Aian Fryman caught a swing pass and broke through five Arcola would-be tacklers racing in for a 78-yard touchdown play and Easton

England booted the extra point for a 7-0 Redskin lead.

"You want to talk about the tail of the night; it was doing things wrong," said Arcola coach Steve Snider. "That started with tackling on defense. It was third and 30, they had a penalty, we had a sack and they had a fumble. That culminated to a 3rd and 30 and they ran a swing pass. We could have had them down for a five yard gain and they would have been punting. Instead he is staining in the end zone."

Sullivan scored on all eight of its drives and outgained Arcola 509-146.

The Purple Riders answered Sullivan with a seven play, 51-yard scoring drive. Jayden Henson-Stice had two carries for 32 yards in the drive and Oden Barren hit paydirt on a two-yard run. The extra point attempt failed, but Arcola only trailed by one.

"We answered and we were moving the ball, right, left and in the middle," said Snider. "We were hitting on all cylinders pretty much the first two possessions. middle. The second one ended with a fumble. That goes to the tail of doing things wrong. We had a chance to answer again and we got down to the 25 and we turned the ball over. Things started to spiral after that."

Fryman scored on a 49-yard run. The extra point was wide left, but Sullivan led 13-6.

Also on that drive Arcola linebacker and first team all-LPC player, Anthony Garza went down with a foot injury and did not return.

"He is a big piece of the puzzle and guys started to lose a little bit of focus and say, 'Hey, what have we got to do, what have we got to do.' It just kind of snowballed from there," said Snider.

Sullivan scored the final 47 points of the game.

Arcola returned the kickoff 30 yards bringing the pigskin to just short of midfield. Barren gained 15 yards for a first down at the Redskin 31. However after recovering their own fumble, the next play Arcola did not recover their own fumble and Sullivan took over on their own 24.

Fyman scored his third touchdown on a 13-yard run capping a 76 yard, eight play drive. England's extra point was good or a 21-6 Sullivan lead early in the second.

"Fryman ran really well," said Bertetto. "It is great when we get our run and pass game going. That is what we are hoping to do every week if we can. Our run game gets some of our pass game going and it was a balanced effort to-



QUARTERBACK JAYDEN HENSON-STICE (1) carries the ball for Arcola. Photo by Nancy Raiden.

night. I am proud of the guys."

Sullivan had 32 carries for 350 yards and five touchdowns on the ground and 159 yards through the air.

The Redskins scored the final 21 points of the first half in 8:04, starting with a 72-yard run for a touchdown by Cooper Christiansen.

Arcola never got closer than the Sullivan 44 the rest of the game and their average starting drive was its own 33 and the average ending drive was their own 48.

"We were definitely worried about their defense," said Bertetto. "The wing T, double wing type stuff is something we show up against a lot because our size in our line is not what we were hoping it is sometimes. Our guys played hard and flew around. Our speed helped us get a good hold of them."

Arcola did have some positives in the second half as freshman Brody Phillips had six carries for 37 yards.

"We just count this as a loss," said Snider. "We don't think about anything else. We go forward and we have to refocus on doing our job and understanding, yes, he (Garza) is a big part of our team. But we have got a lot of other good pieces of our team. I think we

see it in a big way as Ryder Wilcox-Rich stepped up again tonight and Brody Phillips on both the offense and defensive side of the ball stepped up in a big way. So some younger guys are really doing some things well and you look at Brody Phillips just from an athletes standpoint. He is probably going to start on one side of the ball for the rest of the year. The kid is a phenomenal athlete and his effort is top notch and he is physically mature enough to handle himself and mentally mature enough to be able to handle adversity out there."

Arcola travels to Argenta-Oreana and Sullivan goes to Cumberland in LPC contests.

Arcola	6	0	0	0-6
Sul./Okaw Val.	13	28	7	6-54
First quarter				
S-Aian Fryman 78 pass from Cooper Christiansen (Easton England kick) 9:12				
A-Oden Barren 2 run (kick blocked) 5:53				
S-Fryman 49 run (kick failed) 4:25				

Second quarter
S-Fryman 13 run (England kick) 10:55
S-Christensen 82 run (England kick) 8:58

S-Christensen 4 run (England kick) 6:02
S-Kaden Guest 9 pass from Christensen (kick failed) 55.4

Third quarter
S-Seth Forlines 13 pass from Christensen (England kick) 4:55

Fourth quarter
S-Owen Smith 13 run (England kick) 6:21

STATISTICS
Rushing
A-Jayden Henson-Stice 5-41; Oden Barren 3-22, TD; Brockton Morford 2-5; Tyson Lewis 7-33; Ryan Lindstrom 1- (-1); Ryder Wilcox-Rich 7-9; Brody Phillips 6-37, Totals 34-146, TD

S-Cooper Christiansen 8-138, 2 TDS; Aian Fryman 9-123, 2 TDS; Aiden Ballinger 1-3, Dexter Parrish 10-49, Kyle Corkill 2-26, TD, Christian Ozier 2-11; Totals 32-350, 5 TDS

Passing
A-Henson-Stice 0-3-1-0, 0 TDS
S-Christensen 6-7-0-159, 3TDS

Receiving
A-none
S-Forlines 2-18, TD; Fryman 1-78, TD; Ballinger 1-9; Corkill 1-44; Kaden Guest 1-9, TD

Total yard
A-146 S-509



RYDER WILCOX-RICH (11) takes the ball from quarterback Brody Phillips (12), quarterback and looks for an opening. Photo by Nancy Raiden.

Brody Phillips, a freshman, to start at quarterback at Argenta-Oreana

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA –After a 54-6 loss to Sullivan/Okaw Valley, the Arcola football team travels to Argenta to face Argenta-Oreana, 0-2. Game time is 7 p.m. Friday.

"Brody Phillips did not play in the junior varsity game Monday," said Arcola coach Steve Snider. "He will be the starting quarterback Friday. Jayden Henson-Stice suffered a Ac joint sprain in the third quarter of the game last Friday, but still played the second half with it. Henson-Stice will move to the starting halfback. He is also our most consistent runner. We are excited he can still play even though he can't be quarterback."

Argenta lost in week one just 30-19 to Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond, who beat Villa Grove last Friday 43-35. The Bombers lost Friday to

Nokomis 46-14.

"Argenta does something different than what we have seen before," said Snider. "We have to get ready for a whole new set of things just about every week. That is something you just have to get ready for. They are going to do something else."

In the two games, according to hudl.com the Bombers have had a total of 356 yards passing and just 85 yards rushing.

"They don't just throw it on third and 10," said Snider. "They do a good job of not letting you know if you are going to run or throw it. They do a good job of running."

As for the Bombers, who are coached by former Neoga boys' basketball coach Clay Haurberg, who is also the A-O boys' coach, Snider said they will stack the box against us.

"We are going to have to do

things perfectly to move the ball," said Snider. "They are fast and fly around on defense, especially off the edge."

Since Argenta-Oreana joined the Little Okaw Valley Conference in 2014 Arcola is 5-3 against the Bombers losing in 2016-2018. The two teams joined the Lincoln Prairie Conference in 2019.

As for the turf, Snider said, "We don't have a lot of team speed, but Jayden Henson-Stice, Braden Phillips and Brody Phillips have a chance to show speed on Friday night."

Anthony Garza is questionable for Friday's game with a mild foot sprain.

One thing Snider was happy with from the Sullivan game was the play of special teams.

"That was our one shining spot," said Snider. "Gael Elizondo had a 40 yard punt and we had good punt coverage.

When it comes down to special teams we have to pull our end and don't get caught doing something foolish and lose a big one on special teams."

The Bombers are quarterbacked by Ethan Mahan and he has thrown to several different receivers including Tyler Orris and Damian Gude.

As for the Broom Corn Festival possibly interfering with the players focus, Snider said, "The way I approach it is like a Homecoming game. I tell the kids that we have a job to finish first before the festival. It is our main focus."

The keys for Snider are, "Not making mistakes. That is the biggest thing. We can't have any turnovers and no penalties. Our defense has to do their job. We didn't read our keys last Friday and didn't do the little things to be successful."



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