

SPORTS

Arcola loses in final 14 seconds; Henson-Stice rushes for 191 yards for Purple Riders

Arcola loses in final 14 seconds; Henson-Stice rushes for 191 yards for Purple Riders

By Mike Monahan

ARGENTA – Arcola led Argenta-Oreana from just under the four minute mark of the first quarter throughout most of Friday's Lincoln Prairie Conference football game on the astro turf. Argentina-Oreana trailed 20-13 for 32:45. It all came down to the Bombers first completing a 19-yard touchdown pass to Michael Spurling to make it 20-19 with just 14.1 seconds remaining. Argenta went for two and quarterback Ethan Mahan found a wide open Jalynn Flowers for the two-point conversion and a 21-20 loss for Arcola.

Arcola junior Jayden Henson-Stice finished with 25 carries for 191 yards and all three touchdowns for the Purple Riders. He had 150 yards on 16 carries in the first half, mostly on sweeps.

"We decided at halftime that we needed to stop that sweep," said Argenta-Oreana

coach Clay Haurberg, who picked up his first win at the school where he is also the boys' basketball coach. "They were slaughtering us outside. David Heinz, my coordinator, made a good adjustment and lined our defensive ends out a little bit and gave our corners permission to come up and not worry about the pass as much. That made all the difference. The kids made the adjustment too. They stopped going up the field so far. When they came through they were sitting down and turning that back in and that was huge because they just killed us with the sweep early."

Arcola scored on its first three possessions and after that had drives that ended at the Bombers 42, 43, 30 and 25.

"That is 100 percent right that they did something to take away our sweep, but I think we did it to ourselves more than anything else," said Arcola coach Steve Snider. "We were taking wrong footwork. The tale that I talked to the guys about was the little things.

That is what I have been trying to get through since I have been here and I think, I hope that this is a turning point. I hope this is not a 'feel sorry for yourself' point. I hope this is a turning point."

Argenta took over on its own 25 after Arcola failed to pick up a first down on a fourth and 12 from the Bombers 27.

Mahan completed a 36 yard pass to Chase Logue and a 23 yarder to Jalynn Flowers as Argenta moved to the Arcola 34 briskly. The Purple Rider defense forced Argenta to a fourth and seven on the Arcola 31 when the Purple Riders were called for pass interference. The official said, "he was holding him all the way down the field". Argenta had the ball at the Arcola 16 and after a sack threw an incomplete pass. On the next play Mahan rolled out of trouble as two Arcola players were close to him. He threw a pass to Michael Spurling along the Argenta sideline for the touchdown. On the two point conversion Mahan rolled to his left and found a wide open Flowers for the game-winning points.

"It wasn't supposed to be that (touchdown play)," said Haurberg. "We were trying to get Mahan to dump it over the top and he switched field and we got a great block by Kameron Jenkins as he came around the kid (Arcola player) was going to get him (Mahan) and Kameron stopped right in front of him and kept him off long enough so he could throw the ball to Spurling in the end zone. I am just proud of my kids. I don't have any other words."

Hats off to Arcola. They are a tough team. Coach knows how to come at us. We knew they would. Coach Snider is a wing T guy and they are going to pound and pound and pound and we had to stay with them long enough to get a break and we did."

Snider said of the plays, "We were expecting a pass. They



GAEL ELIZONDO (59) blocks for Jayden Henson-Stice (1). Photo by Nancy Rairden.



Freshman Brody Phillips (12) was the starting quarterback for Arcola. Also pictured is Caiden Helmuth (35). Photo by Nancy Rairden.

were actually going to run it (two-point) and I was trying to call a timeout and then they false started. We knew they were going to throw it then. Both the two-point conversion and the TD pass we had the quarterback wrapped up in the backfield, but didn't get him to the ground."

Arcola had three turnovers and all were fumbles. Braden Phillips did have a big interception for the Purple Riders after Arcola had fumbled at its own 41. Arcola had a good drive going after that, moving from their own 23 to the Bombers 30 when Arcola fumbled and Argenta's Spurling returned it 24 yards early in the final quarter.

Snider liked the combination of freshman Brody Phillips at quarterback and Henson-Stice at running back.

"Brody and Jayden did a great job interchange and we did a great job of running the ball," said Snider. "Jayden is

the best football player on our team. I don't know if he is the best athlete on the team, but he is the best football player. He is football smart and knows what to do and Brody or his brother Braden might be our second best. They are right up there together in just being smart, knowing what is going on, and when it is going on and learning those things. We have to fix some small things with our offensive line, everything else is good. Ultimately, overall, you talk about Brody and Jayden since they are going to be what carries the team for the rest of the season.

The Bombers snapped a 24-game losing streak with their last win occurring Oct. 25, 2019 in a 63-14 triumph over Blue Ridge. Arcola and Argenta have played nine times since 2014 with Arcola holding a 5-4 advantage.

Arcola	14	6	0	0-20
Argenta-Oreana	13	0	0	8-21
First quarter				
A-O:	Jamario Barbee	3 run	(Ethan Ma-	

han kick) 9:41

ARC: Jayden Henson-Stice 1 run (Gael Elizondo kick) 6:40

ARC: Henson-Stice 52 run (Elizondo kick) 3:59

A-O: Tyson Oros 34 run (kick blocked) 1:17

Second quarter

ARC: Henson-Stice 1 run (kick blocked) 9:03

Fourth quarter

AO: Michael Spurling 19 pass from Mahan (Jalynn Flowers pass from Mahan) 14.1

STATISTICS

Rushing

Arcola: Jayden Henson-Stice 25-191, 3 TDs; Brody Phillips 8-37; Brockton Morford 6-30; Tyson Lewis 6-25; Ryan Lindstrom 2-1; Ryder Wilcox-Rich 4-13; Totals 51-297, 3 TDs

Argenta: Tyson Oros 5-77, 1 TD; Ethan Mahan 8-38; Michael Spurling 5-15; Jamario Barbee 6-(-3), TD; Justin Flowers 2-1; Totals 26-128, 2 TDs

Passing

Arcola: Brody Phillips 1-3-0-12, 0 TDs

Argenta: Mahan 8-19-1-86, TD

Receiving

Arcola: Henson-Stice 1-12

Argenta: Chase Logue 3-30; Justin Flowers 1-13; Michael Spurling 1-19, TD; Jalynn Flowers 1-23; Damian Gude 1-3; Oros 1-(-2); Totals 8-86, TD

Total yards

Arcola 54-309, 3 TDs

Argenta: 45-214, 3 TDs

From Students To Seniors, We Have An Account For You!



Dianna Reinhart

Stop by our banking center, give Dianna a call or start the application process online @

www.arcolafb.com today!



ARCOLA FIRST BANK

Every Person Matters



127 South Oak . 217-268-4911 . www.arcolafb.com