

Suttons Bay 34 Benzie 14

1st Q

Benzie opened the contest with the ball inside their own 10 yard line and struggled to get anything going early. An incomplete pass from Stapleton to Tanner forced Benzie to punt. Stapleton punted a 32 yarder giving the Norseman the ball with better than average field position. Two plays later the Suttons Bay scored making it 0-7 with 9:40 left on the clock. Benzie again took possession and was forced to punt with 7:33 left. On their next possession Stapleton found Roelofs in the flats for a 9 yard pick-up. A first down was made with a run by Roelofs putting Benzie close to mid-field. Four plays later Stapleton ran for another first down. Benzie then got a big break as the quarter ended with a 21 yard run by Wixson.

2nd Q

Benzie chewed up a lot of the clock and had moved the ball to the Norseman's 24 yard line. As Benzie was close to scoring on this impressive drive Stapleton's pass that would have put Benzie on the score board was intercepted and the change of possession left Benzie scoreless at 11:53. On their next attempt Stapleton and Roelofs hooked up again for another big gain, 20 yards. Wixson added another one to punch and the Huskies were again moving the ball. However as they crossed mid-field things unraveled and they were forced to punt again at 5:30 remaining. Next possession was a fumble but the defense dug in and didn't allow any points by the Bay. With just under a minute to go in the half the Norseman set up a screen pass that went the distance for a touch down, missing the extra point, putting the score at 13-0. Now with 13 seconds remaining Benzie took over on their own 35 yard line and picked up 5 yards with a Wixson run. On the next play Benzie suffered a crucial fumble whereby the Norseman picked it up and ran in for another score ending the first half 21-0

3rd Q

Suttons Bay scored early in the 3rd making it 27-0 when Benzie took over at 9:20 remaining. At 5:20 Benzie took over again and was given a gift of a penalty assess to the Norseman giving Benzie a first down on their own 20. Two incomplete passes put the work load on Wixson who ran for 9 yards and Stapleton capped of the first down with a 1 yard gain. Two more incomplete passes and Benzie was forced to punt. At 2:55 remaining Benzie went with full on running attack lead by Ryan Wixson and Jacob Fekete who together rumbled for 35 yards and a three yard TD by Fekete. The quarter ended Benzie 6 Suttons Bay 27.

4th Q

Early in 4th quarter Benzie fumbled again giving the Norseman another shot at scoring but the Huskies defense held strong and received the ball with 8:55 remaining. Following some great runs by Roelofs and Maurice Nash Benzie was able to complete two first downs. Stapleton connected with Zach Fallowfield for 12 yard gain before the ball slipped away again at the 4:50 mark. Benzie took over after another Norseman touch down at 2:02 where Stapleton threw a 19 yard strike to Fallowfield for his first TD of the season, to bring the score to 13 to 34. Stapleton added the extra point to finish the game Benzie 14 Suttons Bay 34.

Defensively

Once again the defense was lead by Junior Ryan Wixson. He had 13 tackles, caused a fumble and recovered a fumble. The next leading tackler was Junior Jacob Cox with 6 tackles. Other tacklers were Jeremy Stapleton and Nick Long with 5 a piece. Gavin Sauer helped out on special teams by recovering an onside kick in the second half. Mike Melton also made contributions with 4 tackles and a fumble recovery. Shane Roelofs had 3 tackles and a extra point block.

Comments

Once again we found that we can score points and that our defense can content with any of the schools in the Northwest Conference. Ryan Wixson had a pretty good night both in yards gained and tackles made. He is a great asset to this team. When we need hard knock down yards we go to him and he produces. I felt good that some other players stepped up tonight as well. We saw good things from Maurice Nash carrying the ball and Jacob Fekete running, blocking and even scoring for the first time this year. I was really impressed with Shane tonight too. When he's near the ball offensively and defensively you just know something good is going to happen. He's pretty special and we're going to be looking toward him to make things happen for us down the road.