

Spartans Stun Moore Early, Visit Edmond North Thursday

By Ron Holt

It's no secret, Bixby's offensive approach involves an up-tempo attack while not allowing opposing defenses to become comfortable. That's the weekly plan.

The unbeaten and top-ranked Spartans had to feel that mission was accomplished here last Friday.

Scoring on the game's first offensive play, Bixby continued applying pressure throughout the first half onslaught as a large homecoming crowd at Lee Snider Field celebrated an 81-6 victory over the Moore Lions.

Bixby, ranked No. 20 nationally by MaxPreps, improved to 5-0 overall and to 2-0 in Class 6A-I, District 1 play. Moore dipped to 2-3 and 0-2. Bixby visits Edmond North Thursday (Oct. 9) for another district encounter.

Spartan senior quarterback Carson Kirby passed for 307 yards and four touchdowns while senior receiver Nathan Gonzales scored on all three of his pass receptions, totaling 90 yards.

Defensively, BHS limited the Lions to 135 total offensive yards.

Opting to receive the ball after winning the coin toss, Kirby rolled to his right before passing across the field to a wide-open senior tight end Cord Nolan for a 73-yard touchdown. It took 18 seconds for the Spartans to score.

A two-point conversion pass from Kirby to Tyler Wright connected as BHS led 8-0 at the 11:42 mark of the first quarter.

That was the script the Spartans used the remainder of the quarter, scoring on drives of five plays, two plays, four plays and one play in rolling to a 35-6 lead after one quarter. The drives featured new offensive wrinkles that worked to perfection.

"Our openers hit, and we went all the way down through them and we were three or four touchdowns in," Bixby's 16th-year head coach Loren Montgomery said afterward. "

Coach (Tyler) Schneider did a good job putting those plays in ... we had a lot of guys who made plays, and we executed well."

BHS senior Jayson Moll scored on an eight-yard touchdown run, speedy senior receiver Nathan Gonzales caught a 43-yard TD pass from senior Braeden Presley and Kirby caught an 18-yard TD pass from Presley before Gonzales finished off the first quarter scoring hauling in a 33-yard TD pass from Kirby.

Moore had a couple of early explosive moments as Lion junior running back Ozias Adams bolted 80 yards up the middle for a touchdown, but the play was nullified by a penalty.

The Lion play that did count was a 97-yard kickoff return for a TD by junior Landis Green with 2:34 left in the first stanza. MHS trailed 28-6 at that point.

"I thought Carson threw the ball well. They brought a ton of pressure on him, but I thought our offensive line did a good job picking it up," coach Montgomery added. "I'm happy. Obviously, I wasn't happy with the kickoff return and the long run right off the bat ... we've got to see what's going on there.

"We'll look at the film and hope to grow from it since we'll have a short week going to Edmond North on Thursday."

The quick-strike attack continued in the second quarter as Moll ran right before spotting daylight for a six-yard TD run. Bradley Thao's conversion kick made it a 41-6 Spartan advantage.

"We are always working on getting up fast to try to control the game," said Moll, who leads Bixby's balanced ground attack with 528 yards and eight TDs. "At first, it was hard adjusting to

it but the more I'm here the easier it gets. Like anything else, the more you work at it the better you get. We prepare for every team like it's the one you played in the first week."

Wildcat back Jack Gill faked a handoff and ran up the middle for Bixby's next score – a 31-yard run. Thao's point-after kick made it a 49-6 game with 9:09 left before halftime.

With 4:45 remaining in the first half, Bixby struck again as Kirby quickly passed to senior running back Gabe Blankenship for a three-yard touchdown and 56-6 Spartan lead after Thao's conversion kick. Blankenship also scored on a five-yard run in the fourth quarter.

"That was my first reception," said Blankenship. "Coach Schneider utilizes us all over the field so as a running back you've got to be able to catch it too, that's what we worked on.

"That's just how way we play," he said of the explosive start. "That's the culture around here."

The first half scoring barrage ended on a 14-yard TD pass from Kirby to Gonzales. Thao's conversion kick gave the Spartans a 63-6 halftime lead.

A continuously running clock dominated the second half as Spartan reserves played the final two quarters. Bixby added Blankenship's TD run while Vincent Incremona caught an eight-yard TD pass from Reece Madden while Bixby's young defenders recorded two safeties for the final points.

The combination of new plays from the coaching staff and execution by the players worked well last Friday and sparked the Spartans' quick control of the game.

"We were just trying out new things, it was good play-calling," Kirby said. "This week was the first time we worked on it (throw-back passes). We always like to have a gadget play each week. There was no one over there when I caught the pass.

"It doesn't always happen like that. We practice in case it doesn't work out so we'll know what to do. We knew they were going to be a man (defense) team and coach Schneider drew up some plays to confuse them and we did a good job of executing," he added.

Schneider, the successful 15th-year BHS offensive coordinator, scripts the plays to start each game and works to implement new offensive plays.

"For sure, we practiced that play all week because we knew it would be our first play," Schneider said. "We picked the hash we wanted to be on ... it was great. Each week we have new wrinkles we put into play, and I could tell in the first half we needed to get those plays called, we were calling them a little quicker than normal so we could get them all in.

"It was new stuff we had been practicing all week and the kids executed really well. The one Braeden threw to Gonzales was a new play. We're always happy when we score points and do it efficiently," he added.

"We've got weapons everywhere. That is the biggest thing we're working on right now is making sure we're spreading the ball around, making sure we're not leaving a weapon unused. Our goal is to make the defense we're going against have to defend as many players and formations as we can."

NEXT GAME – Kickoff for Bixby's next game at Edmond North's stadium is set for 7 p.m.

Thursday. The game will be aired by the Sports Animal, FM 93.7, with Shawn Tiemann handling the play-by-play commentary and Ethan Roe providing color analysis.

Edmond North, guided by head coach Carter Whitson, suffered a hard-fought 13-12 decision at Deer Creek-Edmond last Friday, falling to 1-4 this season and 0-2 in district play. It was the second one-point loss this season for the Huskies.

ENHS opened the season with a 43-42 loss at Farmington, Arkansas, before defeating Edmond Santa Fe, 30-7. The Huskies fell to Edmond Memorial (35-18), against Norman (38-25) and at Deer Creek. This will be the second meeting between the Spartans and Huskies.

In 2024, Bixby toppled the Huskies, 85-24, erupting after leading 13-10 after one quarter. The Spartans' 85 points is the school record. Bixby amassed 542 offensive yards while Edmond North ended with 380 offensive yards.

ENHS has been led offensively by 5-10, 155-pound junior quarterback Chauncey Cravens, 5-8, 155-pound running back Izaiah Roberson and 5-10, 165-pound junior wide receiver Reece Fisher. Cravens passed for 347 yards and two TDs while being intercepted twice at Bixby last season. Defensive leaders have been 6-3, 205-pound junior linebacker Kaden Collins and 5-11, 187-pound sophomore middle linebacker Hudson Hunter.

NOTEBOOK – Bixby has won 90 of its last 93 games and is riding an eight-game winning streak. ... BHS captains against Moore were Cord Nolan, Braeden Presley, Kaden Penny and Noah Engles. ... This season, Kirby is 77-of-99 passing (.778 completion percentage) with 18 touchdowns and one interception. He's thrown 10 TD passes in the past two games. Nathan Gonzales is contributing to the Spartan attack in numerous ways. Through five games, he's two-for-two passing for 56 yards, caught 15 passes for 263 yards and a team-leading six TDs while also returning five kickoffs for 160 yards. ... Sixteen Spartans have caught passes this season with nine Spartans catching TD passes. ... The Spartans played turnover-free football against Moore. ... Bixby is averaging 61.8 points per game while limiting opponents to 15.2 points per game. ... Moore was led defensively by sophomore defensive back Trevon Nixon, who was credited with 14 tackles, nine unassisted. ... In other district games this week: Jenks (4-1, 1-1) hosts Mustang (4-1, 1-1); Deer Creek (2-3, 1-1) visits Moore and Norman (4-1, 1-1) travels to Enid (0-5, 0-2). ... Bixby's 5-10, 227-pound senior offensive lineman Sam DeWoody is making the most of his second season as a starter. He, however, would have enjoyed being involved in a few more plays against Moore. "Sometimes it's too quick. I kinda would have liked to run more plays," DeWoody said of the Spartans' fast start. "But we had a good week of practice and that's probably why we had such a good game tonight. All week we were dialed in. Every week you've got to take a step forward. It doesn't matter who we're playing, we've got to stay dialed in."

NIGHT TO REMEMBER – Last Friday's win over Moore was a night to remember for a couple of Spartans.

Tyler Wright, a 6-2, 176-pound senior wide receiver-defensive back, was named Homecoming King in pregame ceremonies and then responded with his fourth pass interception of the season, returning the theft eight yards, setting up another Spartan TD. He also had two pass receptions for 73 yards.

"It didn't surprise me at all that we scored quickly. We had a great game plan coming into this week. We did what we wanted to do and were able to execute," Wright said.

On the interception, he said: "We saw the sprint out and saw the area where he liked to throw and I was in position. It was great ... I just wish I could have gotten into the end zone on one of those (interception or pass reception), but we won 81-6 so I can't complain."

Kaiden Flowers, a 5-9, 155-pound junior defensive back, intercepted his first varsity pass, returning it 33 yards to set up a late Spartan TD. He also sprinted to the opposite side of the field for a hustling tackle and returned a kickoff 15 yards.

"They (coaches) put me right where I needed to be to make a play and I did it," Flowers said describing the interception. "I did think it might be overthrown. I knew it wasn't going to be a clean catch, so I just tipped it to myself."

"I really thought I was going all the way ... all of my teammates were pushing me. I was so close. For sure, this was definitely one of my more productive nights. It's so fun."

DEFENSIVE EFFORT – Bixby’s 6-0, 214-pound senior linebacker Cord Nolan had an outstanding game for the two quarters he and the other starters played. He led BHS in tackles with 11, including six solo stops. He also had two tackles for loss.

Senior linebacker Trey McGlothlin ended with eight tackles and two tackles for loss; senior Dawson Madden was credited with seven tackles, six unassisted, and two tackles for loss; senior defensive back Nathan Hobbs had five tackles and recovered a fumble, while senior Maverick Nance also had five total tackles.

Junior defensive back Cole Seager also had a pass interception, which he returned three yards. Moore, which turned the ball over five times, averaged 2.7 yards per offensive play. The Lions were 3-of-14 passing while rushing for 75 yards on 31 attempts.

Through five games, Nance leads Bixby in tackles with 35 total tackles, including 23 unassisted stops. Nolan and Hobbs have 26 total tackles, Emory Snyder has 25 tackles, McGlothlin has 22 tackles and Madden has 20 tackles.

Madden also leads with eight tackles for loss while McGlothlin has six and Nolan five.

Incremona leads in sacks with two while Wright is the interception leader with four.

BIXBY 81, MOORE 6

First Quarter

BHS – Cord Nolan 73 pass from Carson Kirby (Tyler Wright pass from Kirby)

BHS – Jayson Moll 8 run (pass failed)

BHS – Nathan Gonzales 43 pass from Braeden Presley (pass failed)

MHS – Landis Greene 95 kickoff return (pass failed)

BHS – Kirby 18 pass from Presley (Wright pass from Kirby)

BHS – Gonzales 33 pass from Kirby (Bradley Thao kick)

Second Quarter

BHS – Moll 7 run (Thao kick)

BHS – Jack Gill 31 run (Thao kick)

BHS – Gabe Blankenship 3 pass from Kirby (Thao kick)

BHS – Gonzales 14 pass from Kirby (Thao kick)

Fourth Quarter

BHS – Blankenship 5 run (Thao kick)

BHS -Vincent Incremona 8 pass from Reece Madden (Thao kick)

BHS – Safety, runner tackled in end zone

BHS - Safety