

Late Eruption Lifts Bixby to 46-20 District Win at Mustang

By Ron Holt

MUSTANG – Battling a weather delay, self-destructing turnovers and penalties and a talented opponent on its home field, Bixby's top-ranked Spartans erupted in the fourth quarter for a 46-20 victory over Mustang in the Class 6A-I District 1 opener at Bronco Stadium last Friday night. Highlights of the crucial district win for Bixby (4-0) were a career-high rushing effort by senior Tylan Montgomery, another solid rushing effort by junior quarterback Isaiah "Q" Butcher IV and a productive passing game behind junior quarterback Reece Madden.

And the offense was complemented by the Spartans' relentless defensive pressure of Mustang senior quarterback Kason Delgado while forcing four turnovers – three pass interceptions and a fumble recovery.

"We hung in there, but our big thing is that we're going to have to figure out how to keep from shooting ourselves in the foot," Bixby head coach Loren Montgomery said afterward. "We've got to play cleaner football ... you always have to play clean football."

While the game was delayed until starting at 8:03 p.m., the Spartans wasted little scoring on the fourth play of the opening drive as speedy sophomore Hilkyah Sampson broke free outside and raced 61 yards for a touchdown at the 10:41 mark of the first quarter. A two-point conversion pass failed.

On its first drive, Mustang's Delgado fumbled after being belted and Spartan senior lineman Jaxon Dorsey recovered at the MHS 17-yard line.

Madden, who was 12-of-17 passing for 104 yards, hit junior tight end Connor Arant for 15-yard touchdown two plays later but BHS's conversion run was stopped short as Bixby led 12-0 with 9:40 left in the first quarter.

Bixby's talented freshman Maverick Owens made an impressive, diving interception of a Delgado pass to end the Broncos' next drive but the Spartans' ensuing drive was derailed after a fumble on a handoff resulted in a 16-yard loss with BHS eventually punting.

Mustang quickly cut into the Spartan lead as Delgado's slant pass to Jay McCorvey resulted in a 78-yard touchdown with 4:03 left in the first stanza. The Broncos took a 14-12 lead with 2:50 left before halftime when senior standout Gabriel Osborne returned a punt 48 yards for a TD.

Montgomery made his presence known on the next Spartan drive as he bolted 62 yards down the right sideline and appeared to have hit the end zone pylon but was ruled out at the two-yard line. Butcher fought his way into the end zone on the next play and Lincoln Aragona kicked the conversion handing the Spartans a 19-14 halftime lead.

"We were leading at halftime, but I didn't feel great," Montgomery noted. "I felt like the defense was playing really good even though we had a breakdown and gave up the big slant."

Mustang (2-2, 0-1) regained control on the first drive of the third quarter as Delgado passed to Obama Bell who broke away from a couple of tackle attempts en route to a 34-yard TD and 20-19 MHS lead with 10:06 showing in the third frame.

Bixby's defense amped up the defensive pressure in the second half while the offense outscored the Broncos 27-0, starting with Butcher's three-yard keeper for a TD with 2:09 left in the third quarter.

Butcher caught a two-point conversion pass from Jack Gill for Bixby's 27-20 lead. The drive featured a 28-yard pass from Madden to Arant.

Early in the fourth quarter, Bixby expanded its lead to 33-20 when junior BJ Jones broke free for a 10-yard touchdown. It was the first TD of the season for Jones, who battled back from a season ending injury as a sophomore.

"I'm slowly getting to feel like myself before the injury. It felt amazing ... the offensive line blocked great for me. I just followed my blockers," Jones said of getting into the end zone. "This team is never going to stop fighting, we'll fight to the last play."

Bixby sealed the win after a 23-yard TD burst by Butcher and a 79-yard TD run by Montgomery with 30 seconds left in the game.

The long-distance journey by Montgomery capped off a career night as he finished with 13 carries for 191 yards and a TD, his second of the season. He averaged 14.7 yards per carry.

"It feels amazing. First off, I need to give all glory to God," Montgomery said afterward. "We have a great team and great coaches who helped me here. When I get the chance, I take that opportunity and play as hard as I can."

"I knew I had to get that one (TD) after I didn't get the first one even though I thought I got the first one, too. I thought I reached out for it, I thought I hit the pylon. This was an amazing opportunity ... I love this team," he added.

In Bixby's three previous games, Montgomery had a combined 20 carries for 79 yards and one touchdown.

"Tylan had several good runs, especially that long one at the end," Coach Montgomery said of the 5-8, 178-pound running back. "He's a tough guy, always has been, and is a guy who put himself in a position to make plays like that. He's outworked everybody."

Bixby's offense totaled 578 yards of total offense, including 61 rushes for 462 yards and six rushing TDs. The Spartans averaged 7.6 yards per carry.

Besides T. Montgomery's effort, Butcher ended with 21 carries for 134 yards and three TDs. It was Butcher's third 100-yard plus rushing game in four outings this season. He's averaging 149.3 ground yards per game while scoring nine times.

"You just do what the coach wants. We got stalled for a quarter and a half, but we came out the second half and did what we needed to do," said Butcher, who has rushed for 597 yards this season.

"We knew coming in they were a good team in the district and we've got BA (Broken Arrow) and Norman North coming up so this was a big win," he added.

Through four games, Butcher has carried the ball 84 times with most of the carries being hard-fought, determined runs into the middle of the defense. He's also displayed his speed when needed. Does he ever get tired? "No, not at all," he said smiling.

Bixby's defense was tested often but the Spartans responded with consistent pressure on Delgado while limiting the Broncos to 212 total offensive yards, including 31 rushing yards. Spartan defenders had nine quarterback hurries.

"Pressure was a part of the game plan because they have a lot of good receivers and a pretty good quarterback. We didn't want him to have time back there" said Arant, a 6-6, 244-pound defensive end and tight end who was credited with eight tackles, one tackle for loss, one pass broken up, one sack and two pass receptions for 44 yards and one TD.

Arant and senior linebacker Ben Puckett, along with numerous other Spartans were part of the pressure. "I think we all did a good job getting to the quarterback and not letting him get comfortable," added Arant.

Puckett finished with eight total tackles, seven unassisted, five tackles for loss and two sacks. Senior linebacker Nathan Hobbs ended with seven total tackles, including six solo stops and one tackle for loss.

Senior safety Kaiden Flowers is credited with six tackles, five unassisted, and intercepted passes by Mustang's Degado twice. He had an impressive, diving interception with 8:12 showing in the second quarter and a second interception with 1:39 left in the third quarter. Owens also had another interception nullified by a Spartan penalty.

NEXT GAME – The Spartans return home to celebrate Football Homecoming when Westmoore's Jaguars visit for a District 1 game starting at 7 p.m. Friday at Lee Snider Stadium. The Jaguars (1-3, 1-0) of second-year head coach Coleman Ramsey won their first game of the season during a 26-8 home victory against cross town rival Southmoore (0-4, 0-1) last Friday night.

This season, Westmoore was routed 65-0 at Moore, lost 44-14 at home against Norman and fell 70-0 at home against Yukon. In the three previous games prior to the win, the Jaguars were outscored 179-14.

The Jaguars are guided offensively by 6-0, 170-pound freshman Kypton Kenmore, who has 204 yards passing with one touchdown and three interceptions while rushing for 173 yards.

Sophomore Korriyan Marshall leads the rushing effort with 173 yards and no TDs.

Junior Jayden Diaz is the receiving leader with nine catches for 149 yards and one TD while sophomore Chris McAlister is the defensive leader with 32 total tackles, 17 unassisted, seven tackles for loss and four sacks.

This is the first of Bixby's four 2026 opponents which isn't highly ranked. That won't diminish the Spartans' focus going into the game as Bixby's coaches and players realize the need for improvement and consistency on both sides of the ball.

In recent seasons, Bixby and Westmoore have split victories in six meetings with each winning three times. Bixby won at Westmoore (78-28) in 2023 and captured a 73-6 home win in 2022.

The Jaguars defeated visiting Bixby (34-22) in 2017 while Bixby rolled to a 70-28 home win in 2016. Westmoore captured a 37-29 win at Bixby in 2013 while winning 35-6 at home in 2012.

NOTABLES – Bixby is riding a 20-game winning streak, and the Spartans have won 102 of their last 105 games. ... Bixby was ranked No. 40 nationally by MaxPreps. ... Spartan captains at Mustang were Kaden Penny, Ben Puckett, Nathan Hobbs and Logan Haddon. ... Bixby senior punter Logan Haddon had an impressive punting game with three punts for 150 yards. ...

Spartan senior Keanu James was injured after being upended on a kickoff return. He missed the remainder of the game. ... Bixby dominated the time of possession at Mustang, 34:23 to 13:37.

... Mustang QB Kason Delgado passed for 181 yards and two TDs while being picked off three times. Receiver Jay McCorvey ended with three receptions for 92 yards and one score. Gabriel Osborne, the Broncos' five-star receiver/defensive back, was targeted four times but had no catches. ... Class 5A's Carl Albert tied Bixby's state record 58-game winning streak last Friday after a last second field goal beat Guthrie. It was the second straight game Carl Albert won on a last second field goal.

DISTRICT 1 – There were several other competitive Class 6A-I District 1 games last Friday night as Broken Arrow (4-0, 1-0) broke open a close game in a 55-21 win at Norman North (3-1, 0-1) while Edmond North (3-1, 1-0) rallied at cross town rival Edmond Memorial (2-2, 0-1) and held on for a 39-36 win.

Other league games scheduled Friday include Edmond Memorial at Broken Arrow, Norman North at Edmond North and Mustang at Southmoore.

“It’s important ... we got our points and we got our first district win,” coach Montgomery said afterward. “That’s what we talked to the kids about, you always want to get one of those top two spots.”

Bixby 46, Mustang 20

FIRST QUARTER

BHS – Hilkyah Sampson 61 run (pass failed), 10:41

BHS – Connor Arant 8 pass from Reece Madden (run failed), 9:40

MHS – Jay McCorvey 78 pass from Kason Delgado (Koda Kizer kick), 4:03

SECOND QUARTER

MHS – Gabriel Osborne 48 punt return (Kozar kick), 2:50

BHS – Isaiah Butcher IV 2 run (Lincoln Aragona kick), :43

THIRD QUARTER

MHS – Obama Bell 34 pass from Delgado (run failed), 10:26

BHS – Butcher 3 run (Butcher pass from Jack Gill), 2:09

FOURTH QUARTER

BHS – BJ Jones 10 run (kick failed), 9:56

BHS – Butcher 23 run (run failed), 4:24

BHS – Tylan Montgomery 79 run (Aragona kick), :30