

Spartans Blank Potent Timberwolves, Visit Edmond North

By Ron Holt

During the three non-district games opening this season, Bixby's defense had recorded four takeaways in the Spartans' 3-0 start.

During four Class 6A-1 District 1 games recently, Bixby defenders forced opponents into 13 turnovers, a key statistic in the Spartans' 4-0 league record.

That trend continued last Thursday night at Lee Snider Stadium as the No. 1-ranked Spartans (7-0, 4-0) forced four Norman North (5-2, 2-2) turnovers – scoring on two of the turnovers – in blanking the potent, fifth-ranked Timberwolves, 58-0.

The two teams escaped potentially rainy, inclement weather as an early rain shower ended. A blustery wind and chilly temperatures remained during the fall break contest.

The Timberwolves' offense arrived at Bixby averaging 40.1 points per game. Norman North had scored 40-plus points in four of its previous six games before being shut out at Bixby for the first time since being blanked 30-0 in the second game of the 2024 season at Deer Creek.

In the past two games against Edmond Memorial and Norman North, the Spartans have nine takeaways – five at Edmond Memorial and four against Norman North - with seven takeaways leading to Bixby touchdowns.

"The defense is playing with a lot of confidence and they're aggressive ... I love the way they are preparing," said Bixby head coach Loren Montgomery. "We've got a lot of guys who are seniors out there and they understand what we're trying to do and understand football.

"They make a lot of good plays. I love the way we're getting turnovers and the way we're playing aggressive and fast."

Bixby's defensive presence was felt on the game's first play as Norman North quarterback Nash Henry attempted a screen pass from the Timberwolves' 23-yard line. Spartan junior defensive end Connor Arant slipped initially, leaped to his feet in time to intercept the pass, giving BHS's offense the ball at North's 15-yard line.

Four plays later, Spartan senior Jack Gill ran for a two-yard touchdown and senior Lincoln Aragona kicked the extra point for a 7-0 Bixby lead with 10:25 showing in the first quarter.

"I kinda got the chair pulled out from under me ... he (offensive lineman) pulled my arm and I fell down but jumped back up. We had a blitz on and I saw that it was a screen and the ball was right to me," the 6-5, 244-pound Arant said afterward.

"In any level of football turnovers are big ... you win the turnover battle you're likely to win the game so that was huge. Our defense has done a really good job of getting turnovers and getting the ball back to the offense," he added.

Junior 6-2, 215-pound quarterback Isaiah "Q" Butcher IV capped off Bixby's ensuing drive with an 11-yard touchdown scamper while Aragona kicked the extra point as the Spartans led 14-0 at the 4:36 mark of the first stanza.

Three plays into the second quarter, the Timberwolves' Nash scrambled from a Spartan rush in his own end zone before fumbling the ball away. Bixby's senior linebacker Nathan Hobbs secured the pigskin and ran seven yards for the TD and 21-0 Spartan lead with 11:09 showing in the second quarter.

Norman North was victimized by a turnover on its next possession as senior safety Kaiden Flowers perfectly timed a Nash pass, made the interception and sped 32 yards to the end zone for a touchdown. Gill ran for the two-point conversion as the Spartan lead grew to 29-0 at the 8:16 mark.

“We were shown that play a lot during film this week and I saw the ball coming out and I broke on it and got it,” said Flowers, a 5-10, 165-pound senior strong safety. “Coaches work us a lot of getting turnovers and ripping the ball out.

“They’re a really good team and we worked hard in practice for this game,” added Flowers, who is tied for the team lead in pass interceptions with three.

Bixby’s special teams provided the next fireworks as 5-11, 188-pound freshman Maverick Owens returned a Timberwolves’ punt 55 yards for a touchdown with senior Cain Brackey running for the two-point conversion and a 37-0 lead.

A 36-yard pass interception return by Bixby’s 5-9, 183-pound senior free safety Lincoln Fugate to NNHS’s 29-yard line set up the final Spartan touchdown of the first half as senior quarterback Preston Carter scooted six yards for a TD and Aragona’s kick gave BHS a 44-0 halftime lead.

“We do what we have to do ... we had a good game plan because we knew they had a lot of offensive talented,” said Bixby’s 6-4, 292-pound senior offensive lineman Kaeden Penny said of the defensive’s first half takeaway efficiency.

“Offensively, I think we’re getting better. We’re running the ball really good ... there’s things we’ve just got to continue to work on and I think we’ll keep improving,” added Penny after the Spartans ended with 405 yards of total offense.

A 14-yard TD sprint by 5-10, 182-pound junior running back BJ Jones in the third quarter and a 49-yard scoring burst by 6-1, 184-pound junior running back Miller Ousley with 10:22 left in the fourth quarter sealed the win.

“Obviously there are a lot of things we’ve got to clean up and fix but at times I thought we were playing at a high level on offense. It helps that the defense is playing so well,” said coach Montgomery.

“I don’t know if we are playing great yet but we’re getting better and if we get better each week we’ll have a chance.”

NEXT GAME – For the second straight season, Bixby travels to Edmond North for a district battle, slated to start at 7 p.m. Friday at Husky Stadium.

Edmond North, coached by Carter Whitson, returned to the win column last Thursday night after a 44-7 win at Westmoore for its second district victory.

This season, Edmond North defeated Edmond Santa Fe (48-21), lost at Deer Creek (40-30), won at Putnam City North (42-13), won at Edmond Memorial (39-36), lost to Norman North (35-28) and lost at Mustang (54-7).

Against Westmoore, the Huskies were led by 6-0, 165-pound senior quarterback Chauncey Cravens, who is a threat passing and rushing. Prior to the Westmoore game, Cravens was Edmond North’s leading passer with 1,729 yards and 16 touchdowns while being intercepted four times. He also led the Huskies in rushing with 404 yards and six TDs.

“They’ve got a really good quarterback (Cravens) who is hard to tackle, and they’ve got nearly everyone back on defense,” coach Montgomery said of the Huskies. “We’ve seen them on film on film against these guys (Norman North).

“They’ve got excellent coaches. The head coach (Whitson) calls the offense, and the defensive coordinator (Tyler Caid) has been around a long time.”

Bixby and Edmond North played for the first time in 2024 with the Spartans capturing an 85-24 home win. BHS rolled to a 64-7 road win in 2025.

NOTEBOOK – With Thursday’s win, Bixby’s winning streak reached 23 games while the Spartans have won 105 of their last 109 games. ... Bixby was ranked No. 33 nationally by MaxPreps. ... Captains against the Timberwolves were Kaeden Penny, Ben Puckett, Nathan

Hobbs and Jack Gill. ... Offensively, Bixby ended with 104 yards passing as five Spartans completed passes against the Timberwolves. Butcher was the rushing leader for BHS with 73 yards on 10 carries while scoring one touchdown. Senior Tylan Montgomery contributed 56 yards on nine attempts. Owens was the receiving leader with four receptions for 20 yards. ... Owens has intercepted two passes this season. ... Norman North quarterback Nash Henry, a 6-4, 220-pounder, was 16-for 28 passing for 59 yards and three interceptions. Timberwolves' rushing leader Byron Mason ended with 15 carries for 25 yards and senior wide receiver Aiden Williams ended with four catches for 21 yards. ... Norman North finished with five first downs and 101 total yards. The Timberwolves were 1-for-19 on third down efficiency. ... In the past four meetings – 2026, 2024, 2023 and 2022 - between Bixby and Norman North the Spartans have outscored the Timberwolves 240 points to 23 points. ... Edmond North is scoring at an average of 34 points per game while allowing an average of 29 points per game.

SPARTAN 'D' – Bixby ended the game with 27 defensive players recording tackles, led by 6-3, 208-pound senior linebacker Ben Puckett, who finished two plus quarters with seven total tackles, including four unassisted stops and one tackle for loss.

Puckett leads Bixby's defensive chart through seven games with 59 total tackles and 11 tackles for loss.

Logan Haddon, a 6-2, 205-pound senior linebacker, and 6-1, 178-pound senior linebacker Gage Cheatham each were credited with five total tackles. Haddon recorded Bixby's lone sack in the game while Arant, Flowers and Fugate each intercepted Norman North passes.

"We knew they had a really good football team and knew they had a lead over BA (Broken Arrow) going into halftime so we knew we needed to have a good week of practice on a short week," said Jayveon Fontenot, a 5-9, 249-pound junior offensive/defensive lineman.

"It's a great thing we did ... we all played well, and we all did our jobs. We did what we needed to do. We work on turnovers every day."

Fontenot became a Spartan football player after moving to Bixby from Missouri when he was in junior high. "I moved here in the eighth grade, and I had played football before. I didn't know anything about the program when I got here but I found out what the program is all about. I love the family we have here," he said.

DISTRICT 1 – Bixby (7-0, 4-0) and No. 2 Broken Arrow (7-0, 4-0) remain tied atop the Class 6A-I District 1 standings after week seven as the Tigers captured a 35-10 win over visiting Mustang (4-3, 2-2) last Friday. In other district games, Edmond North rolled 44-7 at Westmoore (1-6, 1-3) and Edmond Memorial (3-4, 1-3) rolled to a 41-0 win at Southmoore (0-7, 0-4).

In other district games this Friday, Edmond Memorial visits No. 9 Mustang, No. 6 Norman North travels to Westmoore and Broken Arrow goes to Southmoore.

Bixby 58, Norman North 0

FIRST QUARTER

BHS – Jack Gill 2 run (Lincoln Aragona kick), 10:25

BHS – Isaiah Butcher IV 11 run (Aragona kick), 4:36

SECOND QUARTER

BHS – Nathan Hobbs 7 fumble return (Aragona kick), 11:09

BHS – Kaiden Flowers 32 interception return (Gill run), 8:16

BHS – Maverick Owens 55 punt return (Cain Brackney run), 3:37

BHS – Preston Carter 6 run (Aragona kick), :40

THIRD QUARTER

BHS – B. J. Jones 14 run (Aragona kick), :22

FOURTH QUARTER

BHS – Miller Owsley 49 run (Aragona kick), 10:22