



Sherwood Park Northstars vs. Camrose Buffaloes September 12, 2009

The long stretch between games was used wisely by the Northstars defence as they utilized that time off to work on the basics. Tackling was much improved. Defensive halfback, Mitch Friesen, sacked the Camrose quarterback for a loss on the Buffaloe's first offensive play of the game and went on to lead the Northstar roster in tackles for the day. The Buffaloe's opening drive ended in a fumble recovered by the Star's Michael Wilson who also had a strong defensive game.

The Northstars first possession was stymied by penalties, forcing them to punt which left the Buffaloes in great field position. They quickly capitalized on the Star's mistakes, scoring on a touchdown pass. With a missed convert, the score was Stars 0 and Buffaloes 6.

The Buffaloes were successful in recovering their own short kick-off. Unable to put a drive together, they turned the ball over on downs.

The second quarter saw the return of the Northstars quarterback, Shaun O'Neill who has been sidelined due to an injury. Despite galloping downfield 34 yards on a QB keeper, the Stars were unable to put any points on the board. It was up to the defence's Logan Schlamp to keep the Stars in the game by sacking the quarterback on a Buffaloe third down gamble. The offence moved the ball downfield with time running out in the half when O'Neill pitched the ball to Henderson who then passed the ball to O'Neill for a 25 yard gain. However, a bad snap ended the drive and at the half it was Northstars 0 and the Buffaloes 6.

Bad snaps on the part of the Stars and penalties on the part of the Buffaloes kept the teams even until the end of the third quarter. Then on a play that clearly confused the rookie defence, the Buffaloe running back sprinted 60 yards for the second Camrose touchdown. The successful convert made the score Northstars 0 and the Buffaloes 13.

With O'Neill and Henderson switching off as quarterback between plays, the Stars were able to get on the score board after a series of plays involving Alex Irving, Grady Forsberg and Daniel Marshall put them within 1 yard of the goal line. O'Neill plunged across for the major and the convert was good.

The Stars offence was sent back on the field after recovering their own kick-off. A Buffaloe penalty kept the Stars offence alive. A nifty fake to Forsberg, fooled the Buffaloe defence, allowing Marshall to run outside for the second Northstar's touchdown. With the pressure on, Michael Dominiuk kicked the convert for a Northstar 14 to 13 lead.

With time running out in the fourth quarter, the Northstars forced the Buffaloes to start on their own 25 yard line after some good punt coverage. However, on a third down gamble, the

Buffaloes ran a 66 yard reverse that put them on the Stars 19 yard line. It took 2 tries by the Buffaloes to get past the Northstar's defensive line. With less than 2 minutes left in the game, they scored from the one yard line. The convert was intercepted, leaving the score Northstars 14 and the Buffaloes 19.

The Northstars received the ball in good field position and moved the ball down field but simply ran out of time.

"It was a tough loss," said Head Coach Rob Mackenzie. "I don't know what to say. The team played a lot better but didn't get rolling until the second half." The Northstars tried to get everyone in the game in their quest for more experience for their mostly rookie squad. "The result could have been different with a few blocks here and there. We would have scored," said Mackenzie. "We are close. We will be better next week."