



Sherwood Park Northstars vs. Spruce Grove Predators September 26, 2009

The first win is always sweet. Saturday was no different as the Northstars finally “got the monkey off our back,” according to Head Coach Rob MacKenzie. “We could run anything. The kids did a good job.”

The Stars defence put a quick end to the Predators first series with 3 big tackles in a row in the backfield. With Shaun O’Neill in as the Stars starting quarterback, the offence was able to march down the field on a series of first down plays, ending in a 2 yard touchdown by Daniel Marshall.

The Predators pulled within 1 after their quarterback ran a naked bootleg for a 36 yard major. With a missed convert, the score was Northstars 7 and the Predators 6.

The Stars were able to move the ball from their own 45 yard line in 8 plays. Shaun O’Neill, Grady Forsberg, Alex Irving and Daniel Marshall all got in on capturing positive yardage and the Stars culminated their drive with another Marshall touchdown. The Predators answered right back, though, with their most successful play of the day resulting in a #75 Brandon Mitchell touchdown to tie the game at 13.

On their very next possession, the Stars took advantage of Marshall’s speed to the outside. He was able to outrun the defenders for a 74 yard touchdown. With the successful convert, the Stars were up by 7.

The Predators got into some trouble with penalties that resulted in a Mitchell touchdown being called back, as well as giving up good field position to the Stars. Despite a couple bad snaps the Stars were able to score again on a 22 yard run by Marshall, making the score at the half Stars 27 and the Predators 13.

The third quarter saw the Stars offence stall momentarily after some difficulties with the pitch forced them back into a third and long situation on their own 14 yard line. Their plight became worse when the referee ruled that the Stars had already executed their third down play and they turned the ball over to the Predators on yards not gained. The Predators took advantage of the error and quickly scored another touchdown. The Stars offensive woes continued as on their next two possessions, they fumbled the ball with the Predators recovering both times. However, the Stars defence came up with some big plays to keep the Predators from capitalizing on their mistakes.

The fourth quarter saw the Stars defence shut down the running game of the Predator's Mitchell. Mitch Friesen, who was in on an amazing 13 tackles for the day, had some help from Mark Risdon and Colton Henderson in stopping the Predator's offence.

The next offensive series for the Stars had them move the ball from centre field with plays to Marshall and Forsberg, including a spectacular catch by Marshall, and ending in a quarterback keeper for the major. With the score Stars 34 and the Predators 20, the defence continued to dominant the Predator's offence. The final Star's touchdown came on a 40 yard run up the middle by Forsberg.

With the final score Northstars 40 and the Predators 20, Head Coach Rob MacKenzie commented that "it was nice to have everybody smiling." There were many positives for the team. Despite the defence having a little trouble on the edge, MacKenzie said that this game "shows you where we are. We are playing at our level."