



It began a half an hour late and with less than what the league requires as a minimum number of officials, but on a crisp northern Alberta field the Fort McMurray Ravens kicked off to an awaiting Northstars kick return team. The Stars took possession on their own 25 yard line. A couple of runs later and between running backs Grady Forsberg and Alex Irving, the Stars had gained eleven yards and a first down. The series ended, however, as the Ravens defensive team held the Stars offence to a third and nine position and the Stars' Adam Loov was forced to punt the ball down field.

The Ravens took possession at their own 31 yard line and ran a reverse that ended up in the hands of a lanky running back with the number sixteen on his jersey. Seventy-nine yards later and the Ravens had scored the first of what would turn out to be many touchdowns scored on long runs by lanky number sixteen. The point after attempt was blocked by the Stars defence and the Stars kick return team headed back out onto the field.

The Ravens kicker sent the ball out of bounds at the Stars 20 yard line drawing a penalty and the Stars took possession on their own 45. Two downs later, however, and the Stars were punting again, this time from a third and eleven position.

The Ft. McMurray team tried a run up the middle but a tackle by Aaron Chabaylo held them to 3 yards. With that the Ravens went back to the well and the Stars defence was forced to watch jersey number sixteen eventually run 36 yards along the outside for another Ft. McMurray TD. The point after was good and again the Stars kick return team took to the field.

The next, and one of the more interesting drives, began with a special teams catch by Mitch Friesen at his own 20 yard line. Friesen tanked his way through Ravens for a gritty 34 yard kick return, handing the ball over to the Stars offence on their own 54 yard line. Some more gritty running by backs Forsberg and Irving, coupled with a Ravens unnecessary roughness penalty, and the Stars were scrimmaging with a first down on the Ravens 12 yard line. Unfortunately, luck would abandon the Stars there as they turned the ball over on a fumble and the Ravens took possession.

The Ravens failed to complete a pass on first down and a second down running play up the middle was stopped with a solid tackle by Friesen and no yards gained. As the second quarter began, the Ravens punted the ball back into Stars territory.

The Ft. McMurray defence stepped up and with some hard hitting kept the Stars offence at bay. An incomplete pass attempt on third down turned the ball back over to the Ravens on yards not gained, but in Ravens territory, on their own 39.

The next series saw the Ravens again digging into their play book, but with only limited successes. The Stars defence allowed three short yardage gains, but on the next play drove the Raven offence back 7 yards to second and seventeen. Overall, a good defensive team effort and respectable tackling by Colton Henderson, Mark Risdon, Brennon Dauk, and Adam Loov. However, obviously ready to add more points to the scoreboard, the Raven offence went from that second and seventeen position straight to jersey number sixteen and a 66 yard touchdown run. The point after attempt was good.

The ensuing kick and return left the Stars on their own 49 yard line and three plays later, Forsberg and Irving had shared a total of eleven yards and a first down. The next play saw Daniel Marshall break free for another eleven yard gain and another first down. Two plays later and the Stars were looking at a third and four position, but luck would again rule against the drive and a troubled snap ended up in Raven hands.

The Ravens took to the field but were left with a loss of yardage after three unsuccessful plays and the Stars looked at a potential scoring opportunity starting out on the Ravens 27 yard line. However, three incomplete pass attempts returned the ball to the Ravens who again went back to the well in the dying seconds of the half with a 37 and then 41 yard TD run by the Ravens' number sixteen. The half ended – Ravens 26, Stars 0.

The second half opened with the Ravens having to work a little harder against the Stars defence. A drive of eight plays put them on the Stars 1 yard line, but only after a few key tackles through the series by Michael Wilson and Colton Henderson as Henderson was able to run down the Ravens' number sixteen on three separate outside plays. At the 1 yard line a QB keeper opened the scoring in the second half. The point after was good.

The Ravens' kick was caught again by Mitch Friesen who bought himself another 19 yards of real estate on the return. The Stars offence could not capitalize however and the Ravens took the ball with a nice field position at the Stars 32 yard line. This time their TD attempt was stolen via Adam Loov as he intercepted a pass at his own 18 yard line.

The next series saw the Stars and Ravens trading major penalties and the Stars punting on third down. The Ravens took the ball on the Stars 36 yard line and began another offensive march ending it with a 10 yard TD. A kick through the uprights put the score at 40 – 0.

The Raven kicker then placed the ball into the Stars end zone and the Stars gave up the point, taking possession from their own 35. There was some good running by the offence for a first down, but the Stars could go no further and turned the ball over on yards not gained.

A big defensive play then saw Wyatte Sabourin, and Chabaylo and Risdon sack the Ravens' QB for a big loss, but the Ravens would not be denied a major and the drive ended with a TD pass and a 1 point conversion.

Less than two minutes left in the game, the score now 48 – 0, and the Stars were about to embark on their first and only scoring drive of the game. Friesen started the series with another 20 yard kick return and as a bonus drew a penalty on a late hit. The Stars O-line worked a little magic and Forsberg, Marshall, Irving, and Henderson all shared positive yardage over the next seven plays to bring the Stars to the Ravens 5 yard line, first and goal. A five yard punch through Raven defenders by Grady Forsberg, a TD, an unsuccessful conversion attempt and the score was 48 – 6.

The Stars looked to a short kick but the Ravens took possession and from the Stars 40 began a short five-play series down to the Stars 1 yard line. The Ravens called another outside play and were awarded another major. The point after attempt was wide and the game ended 54 – 6.

Head Coach Rob MacKenzie didn't have a lot to say after the game. "Grady ran really tough as did Alex. They gained a lot of yards up the middle. Unfortunately, we could not sustain drives." Overall though, MacKenzie felt that it was a positive experience for the boys to be together. The trip brought about some team bonding and that was well worth it.