

Sports



#6 Senior CJ Manning takes down a Fall River during the home loss Oct. 3

(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Cougars get roughed up by Bulldogs

By
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The Cougars football squad suffered their second defeat of the season against the Fall River Bulldogs. In the 26-54 loss, the Bulldogs from McArthur, Calif. dominated most of the game. The Bulldogs currently have a record of 5-0 in their conference.

"We turned the ball over a lot and made uncharacteristic mistakes," said head coach Ray Yarbrough. "Fall River is a good football team. Sometimes losing makes you a better player; you learn more when you lose."

The Bulldogs pulled a head in the first quarter, gaining 13 points, all the while keeping the Cougars off the scoreboard. The Cougars had a rough night with fumbles and turnovers. Quarterback CJ Manning, had four fumbles and turned the ball over twice. He was only able to complete 10 of 27 passes, but he wasn't the only one to have slippery fingers during the game. Skyler McLanahan and Logan Miller also each had a fumble.

It wasn't all bad for Manning. He was able to get a field goal. James Thompson also had a

good night, rushing for one of the Cougar's four touchdowns. Thompson ended the game with 19 carries for a total of 224 yards.

Yarbrough feels that the game did not reflect on how the defense was able to play.

"The defense had some good plays, we just handed the ball over and said, 'Here you go, you can have it for awhile,'" Yarbrough said.

Yarbrough also said that some of the mistakes came from the coaching staff as well. The boys were just following which plays were called out, he added. With a bye this week the Cougars will have plenty of time to step up their game and come up with a solid strategy if they plan on increasing their win record. Yarbrough plans on going back to basics in order to get prepared for the game against the Cascade Christian Challengers. Yarbrough plans on focusing not only on the basics, but the team's passing game as well.

"We have a chance to get healthy and start from the beginning and work on fundamentals. We are going to have to play our best to beat them, but they are a beatable team," Yarbrough said of the anticipated game against Cascade Christian.

The Cougars are scheduled to host the Challengers on Friday, Oct. 17, while on home turf.

On Thursday, Oct. 9, the JV team will play a home game scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

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