

# Second quarter surge secures Elkton win

By Zach Silva  
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

While Elkton was able to score a 42-16 victory at home over Yoncalla on Friday afternoon, the 26-point margin of victory was not indicative of how the game felt to the coaches.

"It always felt close," said Elkton's head coach Bill Shaw.

"Although, the score didn't show it in the first half I thought we played with them," said Yoncalla's Matt Bragg.

Despite the final score, it was the visiting Eagles (2-3) who appeared to set the tone early as they came up with a goal line stand in the first quarter to stop the Elks (6-1). Yoncalla began the drive from their own one-yard line but on the first play of the drive Elkton's Spencer Moore and Trentyn Halstead forced a fumble that was recovered in the end zone by Mark Russell for a touchdown.

The Eagles responded by putting together a drive that saw them march down field to tie the game behind a Dominic Aguilar touchdown run from a yard out. With the game all-tied up, the Elks scored 26-straight points stretching to the start of the third quarter to take a comfortable lead.

It started with a Moore 65-yard touchdown run. Moore finished with 178 yards on the day. Elkton's Halstead added 106 yards on the ground and one rushing and receiving touchdown.

"I think our blocking helped a lot. Without blockers, without Jase and Mark, pulling guards, it really doesn't work and they did an amazing job and I'm really grateful that they're in front of me protecting me," said Halstead.

On the ensuing Elkton drives, Yoncalla ramped up their run-defense and so the team had to change their course of action.

"I'll be honest, initially my plan was to do what we do best and just run the football. Boy they showed us four man front and five-man front until they really throttled our chance to just run the ball in the line of scrimmage," said Shaw. "So we were forced to throw a little bit and we really haven't thrown that much all year."

Quarterback Austin Luzier found Halstead and Mason Cox through the air for scores to help extend the Elkton lead to 34-8. After scoring on the first drive of the second half, the team was following the halftime instruc-

tions that Shaw had laid out.

"I told them that we need to come out at half and the way to put a good team away is to come out, get a score and then get a stop and then get the ball back on offense and start to run the clock," said Shaw. "And that really causes peoples confidence to wane. And so we got the score and I was trying to holler at them, 'We're halfway there.'"

But after a Moore fumble, Yoncalla's Dominic Aguilar scrambled in for a touchdown. After a successful two-point conversion, the game had a different energy with Yoncalla now down 34-16. The Eagles got a pivotal fourth down stop on defense heading into the fourth quarter. Now starting to move on offense the team was tripped up after a holding call set up 3rd and 20. The Eagles were stopped and fourth down which led to a Jaydn Woody touchdown reception to seal the victory for



Jaydn Woody catches a touchdown pass for Elkton on Friday.

Elkton.

The Elks will face Mapleton (3-4) next week at home in their final game in the season before they head to the playoffs.

"If we're going to be a legitimate team in the playoffs, we can't have goofy penalties and we can't have turnovers," said Shaw.

The Eagles host Oakridge next Friday in their final game and Bragg is looking for the team to get back to their roots.

"We've got to get back to the basics of working for each other. Like I said, that's our calling card, we're not always the most talented team but we do things together," said Bragg. "So we're going to look at that and figure out exactly what it is. Back to basics next week."

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