

# Oakland spoils Creswell homecoming



KENDRICK MURPHY/CG SENTINEL

Junior Jack Nguyen cuts up field for a positive gain against Oakland



KENDRICK MURPHY/CG SENTINEL

Senior Connor Hanson tries to shake a Oaker defensive back in the open field

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Creswell football endured their first loss of the season last week to North Valley after the Bulldogs' original opponent Jefferson was unable to play due to COVID-19 concerns.

North Valley is a 4A school and plays two divisions higher than Creswell - which plays football at 2A - so despite having the loss, Creswell still ranked in the top five before Friday night's game.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they haven't been able to beat Oakland since joining their league in 2018, and Friday night Oakland's winning streak against Creswell would continue.

The Oakers squeaked by Creswell in their bout in the spring 26-20, but in their most recent contest Oakland would leave no doubt as they hammered Creswell 48-7.

"Those guys are physical

every year and we knew it was going to be one of those battles," said Head Coach Scott Worsham. "They are a tough squad and they took it to us at times for sure."

Oakland set the tone on their opening drive pounding the rock all the way from their own 36-yard-line to the Creswell end-zone for a score without throwing a single pass as the Oakers took the early lead and their first drive took over seven minutes (6-0 Oakland). Creswell did not touch the ball on offense until five minutes left in the first quarter.

Connor Hanson's first pass was intercepted by Oakland defensive back Brayden Bridges, giving the ball back to Oakland right at the 50-yard-line.

Oakland running back Baker Brooksby would make his presence felt all night as the next play he would take the sweep all the way down to the Creswell two-yard line.

Creswell's defense lead by junior Juan Beltran would make a goal-line stand to end the first quarter, but Oakland's first play in the second quarter would result in a one-yard rushing score from Cade Olds (13-0 Oakland).

On Creswell's second offensive possession, Hanson found his receiver, Cade Dimmick, for a big gain of 40 yards on 2nd and 33. After Hanson got the Oakland defense to jump offsides, the ball was near the Oakland 10 with a Creswell 1st and 10. Hanson connected with his receiver Jayden Warthen for the 10 score (13-7 Oakland).

Oakland's first pass on offense finally came with 3:30 left in the second quarter as they would run the ball relentlessly all night. After trading possessions on offense, Oakland got the ball back with just over two minutes left until the half. Oakland's Jayden Henry would break away from the Creswell defense for a 60-yard rush for the last score before halftime as the Oak-

ers grew their lead (20-7 Oakland).

Hanson and the Creswell offense got the ball to start the second half and were looking to strike quickly out of the locker room. Hanson found a lane and gained 20-yards near midfield, but the next play Hanson would lose a fumble which was recovered by the Oakland defense.

Oakland ran the ball three times down to the Creswell 37-yard line and Cole Collins connected with Brooksby for a 30-yard gain down to the Creswell seven-yard line. Only a couple of plays later Brooksby would punch in another short score (26-7 Oakland).

On the ensuing kickoff, Oakland kicked a ball which ricocheted off of a Creswell player back into the hands of the Oakers.

Oakland moved the ball down the field and after a facemask penalty on Creswell, Oakland had 1st and 10 the Creswell 24-yard line. Collins connected with his workhorse running back Brooksby again

for the Oakers score (34-7 Oakland).

Conner Baggerly came in at quarterback for the Bulldogs in the fourth quarter and was able to lead the Creswell down the field with some help from Jack Nguyen and Dimmick.

The Creswell offense was at the Oakland 4-yard line but an Oakers sack on Baggerly moved the ball all the way back to the 20. After Baggerly couldn't connect with his receiver Logan Gordon, the Bulldogs were faced with a 4th and goal at the 20. Baggerly dropped back to pass and was intercepted by Oakland's Cole Collins.

On offense, the Oakers were able to score one more time from a short rush by Brayden Webb (41-7 Oak-

land).

Creswell got the last possession before the end of the game and was stopped on fourth down before the Oakers ran out the rest of the game clock.

"I think it's waking us up to where we need to get more physical and push each other," said Worsham after the game. "I think games like this will hopefully install on us that we got something to work on and hopefully we can learn from this and move on."

Creswell has three games left in conference play and two out of the last three will come against two top 10 ranked opponents. Next, they will travel to Toledo and battle the Boomers on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. in hopes to end the two-game skid.

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**Dimmick** 4 catches, 53 yards

**Warthen** 5 catches, 33 yards 1 TD

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