



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Thyler Monkus, of Stanfield, runs up the field escorted by two of his teammates during Friday's home game against the Enterprise Outlaws.

Stanfield stays hungry in blowout victory

By **WILL DENNER**
For the Hermiston Herald

A dominant season-opening victory would have most teams excited, yet Stanfield players and coaches walked away from Friday's 54-22 victory over Enterprise longing for more.

The Tigers jumped on the Outlaws early with a run-heavy attack that yielded 28 first-quarter points. Makiah Blankenship and Thyler Monkus — Stanfield's leading rusher from last year — each scored on touchdown runs, giving the Tigers a two-score lead less than six minutes into the game.

By halftime Stanfield led 35-6, but Enterprise's offense showed some fight nearing the end of the half, marching down the field and punching it

in on Trent Bales' three-yard run.

The Outlaws carried momentum into the second half with a couple of touchdown drives orchestrated by Outlaws quarterback Tate Olsen.

Although the game result was never really in doubt, Stanfield head coach Davie Salas wants to see a more complete game from his team start to finish.

"We can't take plays off because we're up 35 to nothing," Salas said. "We have to have that killer championship mentality. That's gonna be key this year."

Mentioning the word championship might seem premature in early September, but that's

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Hermiston falls short in comeback against Union

Quarterback Andrew James solid in Hermiston debut

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

Friday night was a night Andrew James had been dreaming about for a long time.

It was his first varsity football game as a Hermiston Bulldog, his first time playing under the lights of Kennison Field, and it just so happened he was starting at quarterback.

And in his first varsity game, the sophomore quarterback nearly led a comeback for the ages as he threw two touchdowns and ran for another to take his team from a 36-7 deficit near the beginning of the fourth quarter to a nine point deficit. But in the end it wasn't enough as the Union (WA) Titans held on for the 36-27 victory over the Bulldogs.

"I'm very proud of the guys for fighting back," James said following the game. "We made mistakes early but we left those behind and that's what good teams do they battle back and we definitely showed what we can be tonight."

Hermiston (0-1) had an opportunity late to get even closer. After a 43-yard touchdown pass from James to Dayshawn Neal,



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston quarterback Andrew James gets dragged down by Union's Abe Smith in the Bulldogs' 36-27 loss to the Titans on Friday in Hermiston.

Hermiston recovered the ensuing onside kick at Union's own 19 with 1:19 left in the game, sending the Bulldog sideline and fans into a frenzy.

The Bulldogs got down to the 2-yard line before James tallied his third turnover of the game as he fumbled the snap from center Kaden Caldwell, which was recovered by the Titans to seal the game.

Overall, James did enough on the field to send Hermiston fans home happy about the future of the offense. The 5-8 sophomore showed great poise in the pocket and put together some great throws that led to big plays for the Bulldogs, finishing 22-35 passing with 301 yards and those three touchdowns. Senior receiver Vaemu Ena said he was ecstatic to see

James play the way he did on Friday.

"Andrew did really good for a sophomore starting, he did a lot better than a lot of us expected honestly," Ena said. "He was good with the pressure, he was running really hard and I'm just proud of him."

Hermiston coach David Faaeteete echoed Ena's sentiment.

"He really improved as the game went along," Faaeteete said. "The second half he really came alive and started throwing the ball really well he really wants to distribute the rock which is what we want to see in our offense ... he may have locked on to a few (receivers) too much and missed some reads if he scanned the field more."

Also having a great game for the Bulldogs on

offense were receivers Neal and Vaemu Ena. Neal finished with 11 catches and 175 yards to go with three touchdowns while Ena had several big catches, including a pair of 30-plus yard jump ball catches that kept Hermiston drives alive.

Union (1-0) drew first blood in the game, when running back Joseph Siofele capped a quick 58-yard Titan drive when he busted a pair of Hermiston would-be tackles and flopped into the end zone for the touchdown and a 6-0 lead with 8:30 left in the first quarter.

Hermiston responded with a big drive of its own on the ensuing possession, that included a few milestones. On the third play of the drive, James connected with Neal on a 22-yard post route of the middle of the field for his first career completion, which he said settled his nerves.

And then after a pair of runs by Jonathan Hinkle, James then hooked up with Neal again on a wheel route with a perfectly-placed teardrop pass in the end-zone for his first career touchdown and a 7-6 lead for the Bulldogs with 5:49 left in the quarter.

But that would be Hermiston's final score for the next two quarters-plus as the Titan defense tightened up and the Bulldog offense sputtered. Union took ad-

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