By Travis McConnell
Sports Writer

The Paxton Tigers used long sustained drives to outlast the quick strike offense of the Wallace Wildcats Friday night in a shootout, 60-50.

The Tigers also capitalized on two Wildcat turnovers, as they turned two fumbles into 14 points.

At the beginning of the game this looked to be a defensive battle as neither team was able to score in the first 11 minutes. Paxton was stopped on downs on their first possession and Wallace was forced to punt.

Paxton scored the first points of the game following a 10 play, 58 yard drive that ended with a five yard touchdown run by Spencer Holzfaster with 1:00 to play in the first quarter.

That's when the defensive battle exploded into an offensive shootout.

Wallace answered quickly, as they used two plays, a 28 yard run by Sean May and a 28 yard touchdown run by Shawn Christensen, to cut the Paxton lead to 8-6 with 30 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Paxton scored on all three of its second quarter possessions and Wallace on both of its possessions. Paxton scored on a three yard run by Holzfaster and runs of 41 yards and five yards by Cooper Bollman. Bollman's second touchdown came with 18 seconds left in the first half and gave the Tigers a 28-22 lead.

May scored his first and second touchdowns of the game in the second quarter on runs of 56 and 10 yards respectively. The second touchdown tied the game at 14 and the third touchdown tied the game at 22.

The Wildcats used little time to tie the game, as Christensen carried four times for 50 yards, including a 20 yard touchdown run to open the second half.

After holding the Tigers on downs, the Wildcats took their first lead of the game on a 39 yard touchdown run by May, his third of the game. Christensen added the two point conversion and the Wildcats led 36-28 with 6:26 to play in the third quarter.

Paxton then used another 10 play drive to tie the scored once again. Bollman scored from one yard out and tacked on the two point conversion to make the score 36-36 with 3:15 left in the third.

The Tigers retook the lead, following a Wildcat fumble, on an 11 yard touchdown run by Collin Perlinger at the end of the third quarter.

Midway through the fourth quarter, the Wildcats tied the game for the fifth time at 44-44. May scored his fourth rushing touchdown from three yards out and Christensen tacked on the two

point conversion with 8:08 to play.

Paxton scored the next two touchdowns of the game to open up a 60-44 lead with 2:22 left in the game.

The Wildcats were not done. On first down, quarterback Taylor Doell hit May, who was split out to the right with a pass that May took 56 yards to the end zone to cut the lead to 60-50 with 2:05 to play in the game. However, the two point conversion was no good and Paxton still had a two score lead.

May led the Wildcats with 166 yards rushing on 20 carries and four touchdowns. He also had three receptions for 78 yards and one touchdown. Christensen rushed for 140 yards on 21 carries and scored two touchdowns.

Next Action

The Wildcats will travel to Harrisburg on Friday to take on the Banner County Wildcats. School will dismiss at 1 and kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. CDT.