



### **By LaDonna Swedberg**

*Sports Writer*

Wallace made the long trip east last Friday to face another new opponent, the Loomis Wolves. The Wildcats knew very little about what they would encounter since they had never seen Loomis but that didn't seem to bother them. They made quite a showing as they worked to make a good first impression.

The first quarter started with each team having to punt on their first possession. It was as if they were all seeing what the other team had to offer. Wallace found out what they needed on their second possession as they moved the ball right down the field. John Marquardt completed the drive with a 14-yard touchdown run and Shane Anders added the PAT to put the Cats up 7-0.

Before the first quarter came to an end, Wallace put together another nice drive mixing the run and the pass. Marquardt only had to go a yard to put the finishing touch on this drive and as the quarter came to an end, Anders added another PAT for a 14-0 Wildcat lead.

The second quarter ended up being the eventful quarter again this week as each team added touchdowns to their score.

Wallace struck first when Marquardt broke loose for a 69 yard run which Anders capped off with another PAT. Loomis was quick to respond when their tall quarterback fell over the goal line on a one-yard quarterback sneak. The two-point conversion was successful and with 8:10 left in the half the score was 21-8.

At this point in the game, both teams went to the air to move the ball and it proved to be successful. Taylor Doell made an amazing catch for a 26-yard gain that set up a one-yard

quarterback sneak by Marquardt. Loomis made some switches in the back field and Matt Gray went from being quarterback to being a receiver. The move worked well for the Wolves. Gray made a 44-yard reception from Zach Clark and they quickly added six more points to their score.

The Wildcats wanted to go into halftime with the momentum which meant that they needed another score. Marquardt and Doell wasted no time.

On the first play of the drive they once again connected for a 65-yard touchdown pass reception. Loomis went back to the passing game to try to get one more score but Doell made an incredible interception right on the goal line.

It appeared that the Wildcats would end the quarter with the ball but a fumble recovered by the Wolves in the end zone put six more points on Loomis's side of the score board. Wallace went into halftime leading 33–20.

The first half was all about offense and the second half was more about defense. Mark Jameson, Jeff Harms and Shane Anders were in the back field more than the Wolves wanted to see them, forcing a lot of broken plays. Late in the quarter the Wildcats decided to interrupt the defensive battle with a little offense. Marquardt once again found Doell open for a 24-yard touchdown reception.

As the third quarter came to an end Wallace was threatening to score again but they saved the touchdown for the first play of the final quarter. Josh May ran the last four yards of a very nice drive the Wildcats put together.

Loomis went back to their passing game to try to get their team back into the game but the Wallace defenders had other ideas. Jose Arviso came up with the first interception for the Wildcats and on the Wolves' next drive, Taylor Doell returned an interception for a touchdown.

Loomis was able to put together one final drive before the game ended to make the final score 51–26.

The victory was huge for Wallace as they reach the half-way mark of the season. It has been a long time since the Wildcats have been three and one at the midway point but the final four games is what it will all come down to if they want to extend their season.

The Wildcats' entire offensive and defensive units need to be commended for what they accomplished against Loomis. Offensively, they had 229 yards rushing and an additional 196 passing yards for a very impressive 425 yards total offense.

John Marquardt led the way for Wallace with 149 rushing yards and 10 for 15 passing for 196 yards. Taylor Doell was the top receiver with 176 yards.

A number of defensive players also contributed in a big way. Taylor Doell, Mark Jameson, Josh May and Jeff Harms all had six or more assisted tackles. Josh Grauerholz had three solo tackles.

Next Action

Wallace will be at home against Hayes Center this week for their homecoming game. Kickoff will be at 7p.m.