

By LaDonna Swedberg

Sports Writer

The Wallace Wildcats traveled to Trenton to take on a very good Hitchcock County team.

The Wildcats received the opening kickoff and after a 16-yard return by Landon Swedberg, they started their drive on Hitchcock County's 21-yard line. John Marquardt helped Wallace get their first first down and then Swedberg got loose for a 36-yard run down the sideline on his second rushing attempt and advanced the ball to the Falcons' seven yard line.

Marquardt completed the drive by getting around the outside corner to cross the goal line for six points, he tacked on the two-point conversion to give Wallace an early 8-0 lead.

Hitchcock County started their first drive on their own 30 yard line and after an 18 yard run by Ryan Rogers and a couple short gains, on fourth and seven, the Big Blue defense stepped up to put an end to the drive.



The Wildcat offense had little trouble moving the ball on their second possession. Josh May, Maquardt and Swedberg each gained positive yardage on each carry of the drive but it was Maquardt who went the final two yards for the touchdown. May was able get in for the two-point conversion to give Wallace a 16-0 lead.

The Wildcats looked to be in total control of the game when the defense held the Falcons to just two yards on their next possession and then Shane Anders blocked their punt. Wallace took over on Hitchcock County's 29 yard line. The Wildcats however, were unable to get a first down and they had to turn the ball back to the Falcons on their 22 yard line.

Hitchcock County's defensive stop seemed to give their team new life. Their offense came out and QB Alex Whipps hit Rogers for a 47 yard pass reception and a first down on the Wildcat 11 yard line.

They were able to get across the goal line for the Falcon's first touchdown to make the score 16 - 6.

The Wildcats were unable to move the ball on their next drive and had to punt it back to Hitchcock County.

The Falcons only needed three plays to put another touchdown on the scoreboard and a successful two-point conversion put the score at 16-14 with 10:16 in the half.

Wallace ended their next drive when Marquardt found Swedberg for 60-yard touchdown pass. The two-point conversion failed, so with 9:22 on the clock, the scoreboard read Wallace 22, Hitchcock County 14.

The Falcons had the ball first and goal on the five yard line when the Wildcat defense broke up three pass plays to give the Falcons a fourth and goal.

Their quarterback threw a pass that Shane Anders stepped in front of and returned to the 13 yard line.

Wallace was unable to move the ball and they had to punt. Hitchcock County had a short field and advanced the ball to the Wildcat 14 where they were going for a first down on a fourth and six when Swedberg got the pick to stop another Falcon drive.

With under two minutes in the half Wallace put more points on the score board when Swedberg took it to the house. Wallace increased their lead to 28-14.

The second half started with the Falcons on offence they had a second and nine on the Wildcat 10 yard line when Swedberg came down with his second interception.

Marquardt found an opening on the first play and went all the way for a touchdown. Wallace was up 34-14 (the PAT was no good).

Hitchcock County quickly moved down the field for a touchdown.

Swedberg went 53 yards for another Wallace score and a 40-22 lead.

The Falcons turned the ball over on downs at mid-field on their next possession. Marquardt found Tanner Clough for a 37-yard pass play and a few plays later Marquardt completed the drive on a one-yard run. Wallace took a commanding 46 -22 lead with 3:14 remaining in the third quarter.

After a Falcon punt, Wallace put together a drive that started on the Wildcat 21 yard line late in the third quarter and went four minutes into fourth quarter, resulting in another Wallace touchdown. Wallace led 54-22.

Hitchcock County eventually took over on their 22 yard line but Swedberg picked up his third interception.

Wallace lost the ball on a fumble at the Hitchcock County 14 yard line and the Falcons took advantage, putting six points on the board. With 2:59 left in the game, the Wildcat lead was 54-30.

Swedberg rushed for 215 yards on 13 carries with two TDs and had 109 yards on five pass receptions with two TDs. Marquardt had 92 yards rushing on 18 carries and four TDs and he completed 9 of 16 passes for 148 yards and two TDs.

The offensive line helped make all of those yards possible.

Leading the way on defense was Jeff Harms with 24 total tackles, 11 solo and 13 assist; Shane Anders had five solo tackles and eight assisted; Bi Gitobu had three solo and seven assisted tackles and Andrew Gardner had five solo and five assisted stops.

Wallace will end their regular season with a huge district game against a very good Medicine Valley team this Friday night. The homecoming game is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.