

Daily Record

Ellensburg pummels Prosser 35-12 behind Helgeson, Orejudos

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There was a lot of tears the last time Ellensburg faced Prosser High School roughly one year ago.

The Bulldogs walked off the field after they were shut out 31-0 in the state quarterfinals

But those tears quickly dried up Friday night when the two teams faced again. And by the end, everyone was all smiles as Ellensburg trounced Prosser 35-12. "We talked all week about worrying about what we need to do," said Ellensburg head coach Randy Affholter. "I thought our kids responded really well and stayed poised. I'm really proud of them."

Ellensburg got on the scoreboard during its first possession of the game after senior quarterback Bryce Helgeson was chased out of the pocket and ran 37 yards to the endzone. The Mustangs crept closer with roughly six minutes left in the first quarter when senior quarterback Tanner Bolt threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Noah Flores but a missed point-after attempt kept from tying the game.

The Bulldogs momentum carried them into the second quarter when Helgeson orchestrated a 61-yard drive capped off by a 3-yard run by Jake Andrew. Helgeson was named the starting quarterback at the beginning of the season and Affholter said each week he has improved. This week, he ran for 96 yards and threw for 141 yards that included two touchdown passes.

"From Week 1 when we played Royal to Week 4 he as come leaps and bounds," Affholter said. "Hopefully he can keep getting better for us."

By halftime, Ellensburg was ahead 14-6.

Staying composed

During halftime, the Bulldogs knew how to react.

"Basically we talked about what happened last year," said senior wide receiver XanderOrejudos. ""We just said keep moving forward and don't let up."That composure led to 21 unanswered Ellensburg points that included some great on-field chemistry between Helgeson and his wide receivers.

The Bulldogs first scored on a 4-yard touchdown run by Mason Sherwood followed by a 22-yard touchdown pass to Orejudos.After Prosser punted the ball away, Ellensburg's first play saw Helgeson finding Orejudos wide open on the right side for a 46-yard touchdown pass.

"I basically tried to keep quiet until everyone got set," said Orejudos, who finished with 119 yards receiving. . "He told me on the sideline afterwards he threw the ball with his finger tips."Prossser managed to score one more time before time ran out but it watched as the Bulldogs got the ball back and ran out the clock.

Ellensburg continues its season next Friday when it hosts Selah High School for homecoming

Helgeson knows how important it is to stay focused and treat each week separately."We are starting over," Helgeson said. "We have to let go of all the distractions and go 1-0 just like this week."