

ANDALE FOOTBALL SMOKE SIGNALS

September 17, 2018

The Indians sent a strong message to their District 6 opponents with Friday night's overpowering 62-0 win over the Rose Hill Rockets. Leading 41-0 at halftime, the Indians pushed the game into "mercy rule" territory on their first possession of the second half. With the Indians switching out complete elevens on alternate plays, the objective of the coaching staff became to get every one of the 80 man squad on the field.

The Indians' complete domination was evidenced by seven defensive stops for losses including five quarterback sacks. Using their power game, the Indians marched the opening possession 65 yards in 11 plays, scoring with Ethan Baalmann's 3 yard run. A Rose Hill fumble gave the Indians possession on the Rocket 25 yard line. Baalmann again found the end zone four plays later.

With their most successful play of the game, the Rockets completed a 24 yard pass from Tyce Carlson to Bryson Evans to the Andale 48 yard line. Chris Burks' 6 yard sack forced a punt that led to a 66 yard, 10 play drive that was finished off with 253 lb. fullback Devin Marx's 2 yard run.

The Indians have many weapons in their war chest, not the least of which is 6' 5", 250 lb. tight end Mason Fairchild. On selected occasions, Fairchild will line up in the backfield. Friday night he finished off a 76 yard drive with his only two carries of the night for 42 yards and the Indians' fourth touchdown.

The margin of take-aways has been the long term emphasis of defensive coach Tim Fairchild. Sophomore Caden Parthemer, playing with a broken thumb, got his first varsity interception at the Rocket 20. Baalmann scampered 20 yards for Andale's sixth touchdown with 1:48 left on the first half clock.

Utilizing all three of their time outs, the Indians forced a Rocket three and out and got the ball on the Rose Hill 30 yard line. With 37 seconds to spare, Andale scored its sixth touchdown of the game with a 13 yard pass from Baalmann to senior Cayden Albers. Sawyer Simon tacked on the two point conversion for the 41-0 halftime lead.

It is most linemen's dream to score a touchdown. That dream came true for the Indians' big guard, 273 lb. senior Ethan "Shack" Shackelford after the Indians set up shop on the 4 yard line after a 74 yard Baalmann to Simon aerial.

A rare as scores by linemen are, the Indians repeated the feat on the ensuing defensive series when 199 lb. junior Carson Fair scooped up a mishandled snap and raced 62 yards for a score. Senior Zach McCormick, back into action after an ankle injury, got the Indians final score.

With 12 different backs carrying the ball and spreading the rushing load, it was not a night for enhancement of stats. Ethan Baalmann led all rushers with 88 yards for three touchdowns and completed 6 of 8 passes for 148 yards and one touchdown. Sawyer Simon was on the receiving end of three of Baalmann's passes for 103 yards.

Juniors Scotti Easter and Creighton Camp led Andale tacklers with six stops. Junior Carson Fair had two quarterback sacks for 11 yards. Sophomores Chris Burks and Cayden Winter each scored a quarterback sack as did junior Dylan Koett. Mason Fairchild and Devin Marx both had running back tackles for losses.

This week, district play begins for 3A schools. The Indians open District 6 play at Haven Friday night. The Wildcats won their opener over a winless Lyons team 28-10, then lost to Smoky Valley (3-0) 44-0, and lost to Hillsboro (2-1) 32-24 last Friday. Smoky Valley, playing in District 5, beat Larned 46-7 and Nickerson 8-6 besides their win over Haven.

In other AVCTL Div. IV action, Wellington rebounded from last week's loss to the Indians by turning back Clearwater (1-2) 47-26. Collegiate, after their opening 32-0 loss to Wellington, defeated favored Mulvane 42-22 to go 2-1 for the season.

In other District 6 play this week, Cheney (0-3) will face Clearwater and Wichita Collegiate (2-1) will play cross town rival Wichita Trinity Academy (0-3).

The District 5 match-ups are very important to District 6 schools as the first round of the playoffs will match up the winner of a district with the fourth place team in the paired District. The runner-up will play the third place finisher in the paired District and will be in the opposite side of the West bracket. The even numbered District winners (6 and 8) will be on the same side of the bracket as will the odd numbered District (5 and 7).

The top ranked Indians maintained their state ranking. Second ranked Sabetha had a close call when they held off Perry-Lecompton 35-33. Perry-Lecompton caught a lot of folks' attention when they knocked off an always tough Holton Wildcat team 46-0 last week.

Talking to people, there seems to be quite a bit of confusion in their minds as to why Andale has dropped from 4A to 3A in football. Last year, Andale's classification for different sports was a smorgasbord. The Indians were 4A-I for football, 4A-II for basketball and volleyball, and 4A for track.

Last year the largest 32 schools in Kansas were 6A, the next 32 largest were 5A, the next 32 largest were 4A-I, the next 32 largest were 4A-II, and the next 64 schools were 3A. Football classifications are determined on a two year cycle and are made a year in advance of the two year cycle using 9th-11th enrollments to determine in what class a school will be placed. Andale was 4A-II in basketball and volleyball because the basketball classification is based on actual enrollment for that year. The classes of 4A-I and 4A-II combined to form a 64 school class (4A) under which track competition was contested. We will still continue to have bifurcation of classification.

All things football will remain unchanged for 6A and 5A. The only change to 4A-I is a name change to 4A. 4A-II undergoes radical change by adding the largest 16 schools in the old 3A to the 32 schools that were in 4A-II to form a 48 school class renamed 3A. Taking away one classification's name sets in motion a chain reaction renaming the next class 2A, and the next class 1A. There are also two separate classifications for schools playing 8-man football. Last year saw a handful of small schools revive the 6-man game. It is little wonder that people are confused.

It doesn't end there because this year basketball, volleyball, wrestling, track, softball, and baseball will be contested in 36 member school classifications for 6A, 5A, and 4A. The next 64 schools will be 3A, then 2A, then 1A. Andale will compete in 4A for these sports.

The answer to last week's Andale Trivia Question: The two teams did not play each other in football until 1948 because Derby played six-man football while Andale had always played the eleven man game. The Panthers, who lead this year's 6A rankings, lost their first six games to the Indians.

This week's Andale Trivia Question: Andale and Haven were both members of the Chisholm Trail League beginning in 1976 when the Indians rejoined the CTL after dropping out in the mid sixties. Haven and Andale shared membership in the CTL until Haven dropped out after the 1988 season. The two schools have been in the same football district a number of times. Haven won two games in the series. How many points did the Indians score in those two losses?

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