

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL: HERTFORD COUNTY 30, BERTIE 0

Phoenix offense struggles in loss

BY JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - A struggling offense left Bertie Middle School's football teams with few options last week.

The Phoenix finished with a minus-48 yards of total offense in a 30-0 loss to rival Hertford County Sept. 20 at Roy L. Bond Jr. Stadium on the campus of Bertie High School.

The Bears lived in Bertie's backfield most of the game. The home team ran 28 plays and only 11 of them went for positive yardage. The longest run by a Phoenix player was 19 yards (Ronnie Futrell).

Unfortunately for Bertie, 10 plays resulted in negative yards, which included a pair of lost fumbles.

Hertford County amassed 123 total yards (82 rushing, 41 passing) and returned a pair of punts back for touchdowns.

Bertie won the coin toss but elected to go on defense first, and Hertford County took advantage.

The Bears drove 61 yards and converted a fourth-and-24 play when the punter ran for nine yards and the Phoenix were flagged for a horsecollar penalty. That set up fourth-and-2 at the Bears' 47-yard line. JayQuon Moore got the first down on a

seven-yard run, Cadeamus Walden passed 25 yards, and four plays later, Keondre Rodgers went the final 13 yards for the TD. Jashaun Bond's two-point conversion run made it 8-0 with 4:32 left in the first quarter.

Hertford County recovered a fumble at the 41, and then scored on the first play from scrimmage. The conversion run was good, making it 16-0 with 1:49 left in the first stanza.

Midway through the second quarter, C.J. Whitehurst intercepted a Bears' pass at his own 23 and returned it to the 36. However, the drive stalled, and Rodgers returned the punt 51 yards for a TD to make it 22-0 with 16 seconds remaining in the first half.

The Bears then picked off a Bertie pass to end the half.

The Phoenix received the second half kickoff, but three plays netted a minus-2 yards (the only positive yardage was a seven-yard run by Kyreik Hyman).

The ensuing punt was returned 41 yards for a score by the Bears' Bryant Williams, and Bond's conversion run with 5:39 left in the quarter completed the scoring.

Bertie reached mid-field once, but never crossed the 50-yard line.



Bertie Middle running back Ronnie Futrell can't escape the tackle from Jay'Quon Moore of Hertford County.

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