

EAGLES AREA FOOTBALL GRIDIRON NEWS

Eagles eliminated by

Edinburg Vela 45 to 21

UIL Region IV Area Round

By: Conrado Perez, Jr. – Eagle Pass Sports Central

“Your best and only source for local sports news in Eagle Pass”

The high flying Eagle Pass Eagles varsity football team under the leadership of head football coach Tom Gonzalez fresh off their historic bi-district victory over the PSJA Bears last Friday night hit the road once again on Friday, November 22, 2019 when they journeyed to Laredo, Texas to tangle with the Edinburg Vela Saber Cats in a 7:00 pm gridiron matchup at the Laredo United ISD Student Activity Center for the UIL Region IV Area Round Championship. The Saber Cats entered this Area Round matchup sporting an overall season record of 8-3 while the Eagles ventured in with an overall season mark of 7-4.

The Saber Cats utilized a well balanced ball control offense via the airway and through the ground to come away with a 45 to 21 victory over the valiant Eagle Pass Eagles.

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The Eagle Pass Eagles received the game's opening kickoff but were forced to punt from deep inside their own red zone after a three and out series that gained negative yardage. The Saber Cats returned the punt to the Eagle Pass 38 yard line for their first offensive series of the game. It took the Saber Cats just two plays from scrimmage to capitalize on the great field possession to tally the first score of the game with a 36 yard pass completion to wide receiver Justin Cantu and a two yard plunge to pay dirt by running back Pablo Rivera with 9:45 showing on the first quarter clock.

Justin Vega added the point after to give the Saber Cats the early 7 to 0 lead.

Speaking of field possession just as predicted in our pregame –review it did play a major role in determining the outcome of this game. Due to poor special teams play especially the kickoff return team 6 out of the 8 offensive series for the Eagles started way inside near their own goal which makes it real tough facing a quality team like Edinburg Vela.

On the other side, the Saber Cats special teams helped them enjoy excellent field possession throughout the entire first half of play.

Five of the Saber Cats offensive series started inside Eagle Pass territory.

The Saber Cats second offensive series started at the Eagle Pass 16 yard line but the Eagles stingy defense buckled down and forced the Saber Cats to settle for a 25 yard field goal by placekicker Justin Vega to extend their lead to 10 to 0.

The Eagles who found it tough to run against the Edinburg Vela defense began to employ their passing game which enabled the Eagles to finally find success as they orchestrated a six play 82 yard scoring drive that was capped off with an 18 yard run to pay dirt by workhorse running back Isaac Caballero with 2:31 left in the opening quarter. Erick Ramirez tacked on the point after to narrow the Eagles deficit to 10 to 7.

After an exchange of punts disaster struck when the Eagles punt attempt from deep inside their own territory was blocked by the Saber Cats with their offense taking over at the Eagle Pass three yard line. It took the Saber Cat just one play from scrimmage to cash in when quarterback Anthony Sotelo connected with wide receiver Kevin Rojas from three yards out with just 29 seconds left in the first quarter. Justin Vega tacked on the point after to extend the Saber Cats lead to 17 to 7.

The Saber Cats continued their scoring assault manufacturing a 71 yard scoring drive culminating with a one yard run into the end zone by running back Johnier Marion with 9:22 left in the first half and placekicker Justin Vega added the point after to give the Saber Cats a 24 to 7 lead over the Eagles.

The proud Eagles responded with a five play 81 yard scoring drive utilizing their mid range passing game and their patented ground game capping off the scoring drive with a 7 yard scamper by tailback Isaac Caballero with 5:24 left before halftime with Erick Ramirez converting the point after. Late in the first half Edinburg Vela had two more potential scoring drives negated by the Eagle famed **“Land Sharks”** defense the first one coming on a caused fumble right at the goal line which was recovered by Orty Martinez and the second one coming on an interception inside the end zone by Dakota Kypuros who was playing the Nickel Back on defense.

In the third quarter the Saber Cats padded their lead with a 64 yard scoring drive that

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culminated with a 20 yard touchdown pass from Anthony Sotelo to wide receiver Kevin Rojas with 3:52 showing on the third quarter clock. Justin Vega spit the uprights with the point after to give the Saber Cats a 31 to 14 lead over the Eagles.

Early in the fourth quarter the Saber Cats extended their lead with a 50 yard scoring drive capped off with a 38 yard touchdown pass from Anthony Sotelo to Justin Vega with 11:53 showing on the fourth quarter clock. Justin Vega added the point after to give the Saber Cats a 38 to 14 lead over the Eagles.

Later in the fourth quarter the Saber Cats ground game who had been mostly held in check by the Eagles defense finally were able to break one as running back Pablo Rivera rambled 75 yards into the end zone with 6:25 left in the game with Justin Vega adding the point after to extend the Saber Cats lead to 45 to 14 over the Eagles.

The valiant Eagle Pass Eagles who always keep fighting forward no matter what countered with a well executed five play 89 yard scoring drive punctuated with brilliant 2 yard touchdown pass from Allan Rodriguez to wide receiver Cgc Ritchie with 4:48 left in the game.

Erick Ramirez closed out the scoring in this game with his extra point enabling the Edinburg Vela to come away with the hard fought 45 to 21 victory over the Eagle Pass Eagles who closeout their season with an overall season record of 7-5.

Eagle Pass Sports Central congratulates the Eagle Pass Eagles on a great and memorable

Eagles-Edinburg Vela Area Round Football Playoff Game eport: Fri. Nov. 22, 2019

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season and wishes each of the graduating senior class members the very best of luck in all of your future endeavors and we thank each of you for the number of thrills and memories that you provided during your respective high school football careers for Eagle Pass High School..

Once an Eagle Always an Eagle!

GAME TEAM STATS:

EAGLES SABER CATS

First Downs 6 18

Att./ Yds. Rushing 22 for 25 31 for 138

Yards Passing 279 338

Total Yards 304 476

Pass att./comp./int's 15/27/1 21/32/1

Return Yards 00 00

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Punts /Avg. 7/39.5 3/37.5

Fumbles/Lost 1/0 3/2

Penalties/Yards 7/47 5/60

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE STATS:

PASSING:

#7 Allan Rodriguez 15 comp. 27 att, 1 int 279 yds, 1 TD

RUSHING:

#3 Isaac Caballero 12 carries 47 yds, 2 TD's

#7 Allan Rodriguez 8 carries (-)19 yds,

#21 Saul Peralez 2 carries (-) 3 yds..

RECEIVING:

#4 Jacob Ruiz 1 rec. 27 yds.

#5 Carlos Santos 5 rec. 107 yds.

#11 Cgc Ritche 2 rec. 92 yds 1 TD

#13 David Lopez 2 rec. 33 yds.

#14 Dakota Kypuros 3 rec. 9 yds.

#16 Chris Hiller 1 rec. 12 yds.

#20 Fernie Zavala 1 rec. (-) 1 yd.

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE STATS:

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#28 Joe Samaniego 8 tackles 7 assists 1 tackle for a loss 1 caused fumble

Co-Defensive Player of the Game.

\$22 Andres Perez 6 tackles 4 assists 3 tackles for a loss 0.5 QB Sack 1 interception

Co-Defensive Player of the Game

#2 Kristian Barcena 7 tackles 2 blocked passes Co-Defensive Player of the Game

#45 Jacob Salinas 6 tackles 7 assists 2 tackles for a loss 2 Big Hits

Co-Defensive Player of the Game

#42 Andres Conde 5 tackles 1 assist 2 tackles for a loss `1 QB Sack

Co-Defensive Player of the Game

#29 Jose Hernandez 4 tackles 4 assists

#24 MJ McGehee 4 tackes1 assist 1 tackle for a loss 1 QB Sack 1 caused fumble

#12 Orly Martinez 4 tackles 1 fumble recovery

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#55 Tommy Cantu 2 tackles 2 tackles for a loss 0.5 QB Sack

#44 Charlie Schuesler 1 tackle 1 assist

@13 Dakota Kypuros 1 tackle 1 interception

#23 Henry Browning 1 tackle 3 assists

#13 David Lope 1 tackle 2 assists