EAGLES *FOOTBALL* GRIDIRON NEWS

Eagles pound the

McAllen Bulldogs 52 to 21

Will face Edinburg Vela in Area Round

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

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The 2017 District 29-6A co-champion Eagle Pass Eagles varsity football team under the leadership of head football coach Tom Gonzalez ventured into the post season for the first time since 2013 when they hosted the McAllen Bulldogs in the UIL Region IV Class 6A bi-district round with a 7:30PM gridiron encounter at the Eagle Pass ISD Student Activity Center Cozel Foster-Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The visiting McAllen Bulldogs entered this playoff round contest sporting an overall season record of 4-6 while the home standing Eagle Pass Eagles came in sporting and overall season record of 8-2. The Eagle Pass Eagles aerial assault proved to be too much for the McAllen Bulldogs to handle as the Eagles bombard the Bulldogs 52 to 21 to capture the bi-district

championship and advance to the UIL Region IV Area Round where they will face the Edinburg Vela Sabercats on Friday, November 24, 2017 at 2:00PM at the Laredo United ISD Student Activity Center.

After an exchange of punts by both teams to start the game, the lightning quick Eagle Pass Eagles offense unleashed their aerial attack to mount a two play 60 yard scoring drive with a 15 yard pass completion to Jose Riojas and then capped off with a 45 yard touchdown pass from quarterback Richie Luna to wide receiver Norby Zavala who hauled in the pass in stride and outran the McAllen secondary into the end zone with 7:19 showing on the first quarter clock which brought the Loyal Legion of Eagles faithful in attendance to their feet with resounding approval. Eagles place kicker Jose Riojas tacked on the point after to give the Eagles the early 7 to 0 lead over the McAllen Bulldogs.

The Eagles continue their prolific aerial show on their next offensive series that resulted in an 81 yard scoring drive that culminated with a 54 yard touchdown pass from Riche Luna to the two-sport standout wide receiver Rey Mendoza who showcased his talent and speed in taking it to the promise land running away from the McAllen secondary with 2:44 left in the first quarter. Jose Riojas converted the point after to extend the Eagles lead to 14 to 0.

Meanwhile the Eagles famed ***"Land Sharks"*** defensive unit managed to hold the McAllen offense in check holding them to very minimal yardage and no first downs during the first quarter of play with their superior speed, quick pursuit and aggressive style of play that showcases a swarming hard hitting scheme that forced the McAllen Bulldogs to punt in every one of their first four offensive possessions.

The Eagles offense once again struck quickly with a one play 37 yard scoring drive punctuated with a well executed pin point 37 yard touchdown pass from Richie Luna to the multi-talented slot receiver Jose Riojas with11:49 remaining in the second period. Jose Riojas split the uprights with the point after to give the Eagles a 21 to 0 lead over the Bulldogs.

The Eagles ***"Land Sharks"*** defensive unit with Sebastian Hernandez, Mario Torres, Armando Monsivais, David Kypuros, Roger Ulloa, Nico Moyeda Ryan Chisum, Josh Monsivais and company applying relentless pressure on the Bulldogs offensive unit smelled blood in the water and decided to get into the scoring parade themselves when stellar defensive end Moi Rocha intercepted a Bulldogs pass attempt and returned it 40 yards for a pick 6 to the house with 11:22 left in the second quarter. Jose Riojas remained perfect in the point after department to give the Eagles a sizeable 28 to 0 lead over the Bulldogs.

With the support of the packed Loyal Legion of Eagles faithful cheering their hearts out, the Eagles offense struck once again with a two play 37 yard scoring drive capped off with another 37 yard touchdown pass from Richie Luna to slot receiver Jose Riojas with 9:36 showing on the second quarter clock. Jose Riojas added the point after to pad the Eagles lead to 35 to 0 over the McAllen Bulldogs.

The Eagles then proceeded to close out the scoring in the first half by orchestrating a 62 yard scoring drive that culminated with a 35 yard touchdown pass from quarterback Richie Luna to wide receiver Albert Guevara with 5:19 left before halftime. Jose Riojas converted the point after to give the Eagle Pass Eagles a very comfortable 42 to 0 lead over the stunned McAllen Bulldogs at the end of the first half of play. The Eagles stingy suffocating first team defense held the McAllen Bulldogs highly touted NCAA Division I prospect wide receiver Gunnar Henderson to no catches and no yards during the entire first half of play.

****Editor's Note:** Richie Luna's five touchdown passes in the first half of play sets a new all-time school record for most touchdown passes in a playoff game. Luna shared the wealth with each of his speedy and talented receiving corps quartet of Albert Guevara, Norby Zavala, Jose Riojas and Rey Mendoza.

After a resounding halftime performance by the award winning Mighty Eagle Band as well as the Diamond Dance team the Eagles offense employed a predominately ground attack utilizing the services of running backs Dee Andre Torres and Saul Perales to run some time off the clock with the eventual outcome of this contest well in hand. The Eagles tacked on another score with 36 yard scoring drive capped off with a one yard run to pay dirt by running back Saul Perales with 1:58 left in the third quarter. Jose Riojas added the point after to give the Eagles a commanding 49 to 0 lead over the Bulldogs.

The visiting Bulldogs finally managed to avert the potential shutout with only 46 seconds left in the third quarter with a 75 yard scoring drive culminating with a 45 yard touchdown pass from quarterback Aaron Nixon to wide receiver Christian Solis. Sam Maldonado tacked on the point after to make the score 49to 7 in favor of the Eagles.

The Eagles then closed out their scoring production in this game midway through the fourth quarter with a 28 yard field goal by placekicker Jose Riojas to extend the Eagles lead to 52 to 7,

The McAllen Bulldogs managed to tack on a pair of late game touchdowns against the Eagles defensive reserves to make the final score 52 to 21 for the victorious Eagle Pass Eagle to capture the UIL Region IV bi-district championship and thus advance to the UIL Region IV Area Round to square off against the undefeated Edinburg Vela Sabercats who barely escaped an upset at the hands of Brownsville Hanna with a last second 54 yard game winning field goal last night.

****Editor's Note:** The 52 points is the most ever points scored in a playoff game in Eagle Pass Eagles football history. The previous record was 42 points set back in 2009 in a loss to PSJA North in their last game ever played at historic Old Eagle Field.

Eagle Pass Sports Central congratulates the mighty Eagle Pass Eagles on their dominating 52 to 21 bi-district victory over the McAllen Bulldogs and wishes you the very best of luck against the Edinburg Vela Sabercats in the Area Round and invite the Loyal Legion of Eagles faithful as well as the entire community of Eagle Pass, Texas to make the trip to Laredo, Texas next Friday, November 24, 2017 and support the mighty Eagles in their quest for the Region IV Area Round championship. Kickoff time next week is scheduled for 2:00 PM at the Laredo United ISD Student Activity Center. GO EAGLES! BEAT THE SABERCATS!

OFFICIAL INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE STATS:

	EAGLES	OPPONENT
First Downs	14	11
Att./ Yds. Rushing	36/170	38/153
Yards Passing	275	152
Total Yards	**445**	**305**
Pass att./comp./int's	11/22/0	11/28/1
Return Yards	40	0
Punts /Avg.	6/24.1	7/33.4
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	0/0
Penalties/Yards	2/10	3/25

OFFICIAL INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE STATS:

PASSING

#1 Alan Rodriguez no comp. 1 att.:

#10 Riche Luna 11 comp. 21 att. 275 yds. 5TD's.

RUSHING:

#1 Alan Rodriguez 1 carry 10 yds.

#2 Albert Guevara 1 carry -1 yd.

#8 Dee Andre Torres 13 carries 62 yds.

#9 Jose Riojas 1 carry 3 yds.

#10 Riche Luna 3 carries 10 yds.

#13 Orly Martinez 1 carry -1 yd.

#20 Mando De Los Santos 3 carries 12 yds.

#22 Saul Perales 11 carries 69 yds. 1TD

#45 Jorge Buentello 2 carries 9 yds.

RECEIVING:

#2 Albert Guevara 1 rec. 35 yds. 1TD

#8 Dee Andre Torres 1 rec. 6 yds. .

#9 Jose Riojas 4 rec. 97 yds 2TD's.

#11 Norby Zavala 2 rec. 71 yds. 1TD

#22 Saul Perales 1 rec. 11 yds.

#80 Rey Mendoza 3 rec. 68 yds. 1TD

OFFICIAL INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE STATS:

#23 Armando Monsivais 9 tackles 1 assist 1 tackle for a loss 1Bih Hit

Co-Defensive Player of the Week

#25 David Kypuros 7 tackles 4 assists 3 tackles for a loss 1 QB Sack

Co-Defensive Player of the Week

#50 Roger Ulloa 5 tackles 3 assists 2 tackles for a loss 1 QB Sack

#44 Moi Rocha 4 tackles 6 assists 1 interception return for a touchdown

Co-Defensive Player of the Week

#5 Nico Moyeda 4 tackles 5 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#2 Juan Guerra 3 tackles

#28 Raul Lechler 3 tackles

#94 Manny Rodriguez 3 tackles 3 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#34 Benny Mata 3 tackles 1 assist

#56 Sebastian Hernandez 2 tackles 3 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#53 Max Martinez 2 tackles

#1 Ryan Chisum 1 tackle 4 assists