

## EAGLES *FOOTBALL* GRIDIRON NEWS

Eagles drop overtime heartbreaker to

Laredo Alexander 14 to 7

### **Penalties & Turnovers plague Eagles**

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

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The high flying Eagle Pass Eagles mentored by head football coach Tom Gonzalez ventured into Laredo, Texas on Thursday, October 25, 2018 for a 7:00 PM District 29-6A football marquee matchup against the current district co-leading Laredo Alexander Bulldogs at the Laredo United ISD Bill Johnson Student Activity Center. This highly anticipated matchup as usual was expected to be quite a thriller where field possession and turnovers more than likely playing a major factor in determining the final outcome of this contest.

The visiting Eagle Pass Eagles supported by their surprisingly low number of Loyal Legion of

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•Written by EPSCadmin•

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fans in attendance entered into this contest sporting an overall season record of 7-1 and a district mark of 3-1 while the home standing Laredo Alexander Bulldogs came in with an overall season record of 6-1 and a district mark of 4-0. With the score tied at 7 all at the end of regulation play the game headed to overtime where the Bulldogs tallied a touchdown. The Eagles countered with what sure seemed like a potential game tying touchdown but disaster struck as the Eagles' ball carrier fumbled right as he was about to cross the goal line with Laredo Alexander recovering the errant pigskin to escape with the hard fought 14 to 7 victory over the Eagle Pass Eagles.

While the majority of the Friday night post game bleacher analysts and Saturday morning Quarterback Clubs were expecting a high scoring encounter by the usually explosive Eagles and Bulldogs offensive squads, on the contrary it was the Eagles and Bulldogs defensive squads that dominated this key matchup with the Eagles famed aggressive defense dominating the trenches against the Bulldogs offensive line and allowing just very minimal yardage throughout the entire first half of play and so did the Bulldogs defensive front line controlling the trench battles against the Eagles offensive line.

Both teams had only two offensive possessions in the opening quarter but could manage gain minimal offensive production and were forced to trade off a pair of punts in that scoreless quarter. In the second quarter the home standing Bulldogs who enjoyed the better field possession all game long mounted a 10 play 60 yard scoring drive utilizing the short yardage running of running back Camilo Pedraza and the short yardage passing game from the dual quarterback tandem of JR Rodriguez and Mathew Connor culminating their drive with a 3 yard TD pass from Matthew Connor to wide receiver Alex Ali with 9:43 left in the second quarter. Bulldogs placekicker Sebastian Brenis tacked on the point after to give the Bulldogs a 7 to 0 lead over the Eagles.

However the lead did not last long for after the ensuing kickoff, the Eagles offense orchestrated

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a 10 play 68 scoring drive mostly through the ground with freshman running back Jose Hernandez along with backup running backs J Herrera and Saul Peralez taking turns in toting the pigskin along the way. The scoring drive was capped off with a four yard blast into the end zone by J Herrera with 5:22 remaining before halftime. Erick Ramirez converted the game tying extra point to knot up the score at 7 all heading into their respective halftime locker room.

The entire second half of this contest certainly was not a kind one as the visiting Eagle Pass Eagles were plagued with numerous costly penalties and had a couple of turnovers. Every play that seemed to get the Eagles closer to the red zone and perhaps a potential score were negated by either an offensive holding call, a chop block, illegal procedure and one delay of game which forced the Eagles offense to go backwards instead of forward. But luckily the Eagles defense would rise up to the challenge and held the Bulldogs scoreless the entire second half of play and even managed to record their 13<sup>th</sup>

interception of the season when linebacker Jacob Salinas intercepted a Matthew Connor pass deep in Eagle Pass territory and returned it all the way to the Eagles own 48 yard line to setup one final chance in regulation play for the Eagles to tally a potential game winning score. The Eagles offense quickly employed a successful short passing game with Richie Luna connecting with wide receivers David, Lopez, Oscar Castillion and Jacob Ruiz and also went to their patented running game with Saul Peralez carrying most of the load as he was pressed into action replacing the talented starting freshman running back Jose Hernandez who did not play in the second half of this contest after suffering a wrist injury in the first half. The Eagles offense managed to drive down to the Alexander 21 yard line with only three seconds remaining in the game so the Eagles lined up to attempt a possible game winning 38 yard field goal attempt but Lady Luck was not kind as the kick had plenty of distance but unfortunately sailed wide left of its mark so the game headed to overtime.

In the overtime period the Eagles chose to go on defense first. With the ball placed at the 25 yard line the Bulldogs offense took their turn first and managed to get down to the one yard line where running back Camilo Pedraza found pay dirt with a one yard run and Sebastian Brenis added the point after to give the Bulldogs a 14 to 7 lead over the Eagles.

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The Eagles offense took their turn to answer from the 25 yard line and managed to drive down to the Bulldogs 3 yard line. On the ensuing play the Eagles ball carrier was on his way to crossing the goal line for perhaps the game tying score but low and behold disaster struck as the ball came loose just as he was about to cross the goal line and the opportunistic Bulldogs recovered the errant pigskin to escape with the hard fought 14 to 7 overtime victory over a gallant Eagle Pass Eagles team that deserved a better fate. Eagles' running back Saul Peralez finished as the game's leading rusher with 85 yards on 20 carries. The leading rusher for Laredo Alexander was Camilo Pedraza who gained 68 yards on 21 carries.

Leading receiver for the Eagles was Oscar Castillon who hauled in four passes for 44 yards while the leading receiver for Laredo Alexander was Alex Ali who gained 60 yards on four receptions.

For the third time this season once again the Eagles stingy and hard hitting defense managed to hold one of the district's top elite receivers to way below their usual average as they held Laredo Alexander's Alberto Laurel Jr. to only 56 yards receiving on 5 catches with no touchdowns. Overall the Eagles defense played their hearts out and allowed the Bulldogs to rush for only 49 total yards on 27 carries for an average of 1.8 yards per carry in this game.

The Eagle Pass Eagles will now enter their Open week this coming Friday night before they resume to their district gridiron battles to host their oldest and arch rivals the Del Rio Rams on Friday, November 9, 2018 in their respective regular and district season finale at the Eagle Pass ISD Student Activity Center Cozel Foster-Veterans Memorial Stadium before venturing off into the post season. This game has been designated as Eagle Pass High School's 2018 Homecoming game with the coronation of the King and Queen as well as the Royal Court taking place during the halftime festivities.

### GAME TEAM STATS:

#### EAGLES OPPONENT

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First Downs 14 12

Att./ Yds. Rushing 34/115 27/49

Yards Passing 115 165

**Total Yards 230 214**

Pass att./comp./int's 14/24/0 18/27/1

Return Yards 0 0

Punts /Avg. 6/38.8 6/36.2

Fumbles/Lost 2/2 0/0

Penalties/Yards 10/85 7/55

### INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE STATS:

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### PASSING:

#10 Riche Luna 14 comp. 24 att. 115 yds.

### RUSHING:.

#10 Riche Luna 6 carries (-) 4 yds

#21 Saul Peralez 20 carries 85 yds.

#23 Jose Hernandez 6 carries 27 yds.

#24 J Herrera 2 carries 7 yds. 1TD

### RECEIVING:

#4 Jacob Ruiz 3 rec 21 yds.

#7 Rey Rey Mendoza 3 rec. 30 yds.

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#13 David Lopez 4rec. 20 yds.

#14 Oscar Castillon 4 rec. 44 yds.

### INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE STATS:

#25 David Kypuros Co-Defensive Player of the Game 8 tackles 5 assists

3 tackles for a loss 1 QB Sack 1 Big Hit

#50 Roger Ulloa 5 tackles 6 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#44 Moises Rocha Co-Defensive Player of the Game 5 tackles 3 assists

3 tackles for a loss 1 QB Sack

#94 Manny Rodriguez Co-Defensive Player of the Game 5 tackles 2 assists

3 tackles for a loss 1.5 QB Sacks

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#28 Raul Lechler Co-Defensive Player of the Game 5 tackles 1 assist

2 tackles for a loss 2 Big Hits

#1 Ryan Chisum 5 tackles

#45 Jacob Salinas 4 tackles 1 tackle for a loss 1 interception

#5 Nico Moyeda 3 tackles 3 assists

#40 Charlie Schuessler 2 tackles 4 assists 2 tackles for a loss

#31 Josh Monsivais 2 tackles 2 assists

#8 Eric Heredia 1 tackle 2 assists

#54 David Santos 1 tackle 2 assists 1 tackle for a loss