

Eagle team rewrites history book

Written by Deb Egenberger
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The old-timers and even some not-so-old-timers might dispute the 2010 Brady football team's claim to a couple of school records.

According to the Nebraska School Activities Association, though, the Eagles have every right to boast the school's first home state playoff game and the first playoff win in school history.

Brady hosted Litchfield Thursday night in the opening round of the Class D-2 state playoffs.

It is the first time the Eagles have earned a seed high enough to play at home in the NSAA state bracket system.

By beating the Trojans 26-7 last week, the Eagles also notched their first-ever playoff win.

It is a different scenario from Brady's 36-28 win over Wheatland in 1997 that some consider a home playoff victory.

"Every team in the class played a ninth game back then and it was considered the qualifying round," said Eagle coach Bob Frederickson. "You had to win to get into the playoffs."

Brady earned a spot in the playoffs with a victory that year but traveled to Lodgepole for the first-round game and lost 46-0.

"It was a whole different system then," Frederickson said.

Whether the home field had anything to do with Brady's victory over Litchfield isn't important to Frederickson now.

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It's about getting the chance to extend the season.

"We came out a little apprehensive," Frederickson said. "We were pretty tight on offense."

The Eagles got on the board first with 2:29 to play in the first period when quarterback Kyle Pohlman carried a keeper 12 yards into the endzone. The two-point conversion run failed but the Eagles led 6-0.

Litchfield struck back with a 53-yard double-reverse scoring pass to Tyson Howard from Nat Schrock as time ran out in the first quarter. A PAT kick by Howard gave the Trojans their only lead of the game at 7-6.

Midway through the second quarter, Eagle senior Christian Arterburn broke loose for a 34-yard touchdown run.

The two-point conversion failed again but Brady was able to keep a 12-7 lead at halftime.

"I thought we played OK in the first half but I told them at halftime that they needed to quit playing like they were afraid to lose and just go play to win," Frederickson said.

The third quarter was all Brady. The Eagles scored at the six-minute mark on an 8-yard pass from Pohlman to Tyler Egenberger. Litchfield held out the two-point conversion giving the Eagles an 18-7 lead.

Stand-out running back Brad Ward scored his only touchdown of the night on a 1-yard dive with 1:47 to go in the third. Arterburn added the two-point conversion run to finish off the scoring.

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Neither team found the endzone in the final stanza.

“Litchfield had a couple of big gains, both on trick plays,” Frederickson said. “In the second half, even their trick plays weren’t working for them.”

Ward finished with 163 yards rushing on 31 carries while Pohlman completed 6-of-12 passes for 65 yards.

Brady moves to 8-1 on the season and will travel to Mullen, also 8-1, Wednesday (today) for the second round.

With all of the hoopla, Frederickson said the Eagles have attempted to keep things as

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