

HOOKER, Okla. — Thursday night's 27-14 Hooker victory over Beaver was all about overcoming adversity for the Hooker Bulldogs. Adversity in the number of turnovers and penalties, which time and again stopped promising Bulldog drives right in their tracks.



But time and again the Bulldogs came up swinging from each setback, and pulled out the big win that puts them right back in the thick of the District A-1 race.

"It's extremely important, we've got to win the rest of these," said Hooker head coach Jacob Kreamer. "A lot of stuff wasn't going our way. These kids showed a lot of heart. It wouldn't have mattered if we would have won or lost, I would have still been proud of them."

And for awhile, it looked as if Beaver would get the best of Hooker, as the Dusters jumped to a 14-0 halftime lead.

The Dusters (1-6 overall, 0-4 District A-1) scored on two touchdown passes in the first half — a 25-yard strike from Dylan Cain to Cody Matthews and a 53-yard catch and run from Cain to Gunnar Lansden.

Hooker, meanwhile fumbled away one promising drive, had another thwarted by two penalties for 20 yards and two more ended by penalties. But Jesus Garcia and Hunter Brown recovered fumbles in the first half for the Bulldogs.

It looked like more of the same for Hooker to start the third quarter when it drove down to the Beaver 7 after a pass interference call on the Dusters, but went for it on 4th and goal at the 14 and gave the ball up on downs.

Second half rally lifts Hooker over Beaver 27-14

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But that eventually led to Hooker's first score. After pinning Beaver deep, a punt and nice return by Taylor McBee gave Hooker the ball at the Duster 26.

Hooker (2-4, 2-2) was in the end zone three plays later on a 6-yard McBee run and the Bulldogs were down 14-7 late in the third.

The teams then exchanged fumbles, with Colton Powell recovering one for Hooker, and the Bulldogs fumbling into the end zone to end a potential scoring drive.

The Bulldogs finally got the big play they needed with 3:28 left in the game when Dayton Metcalf completed a 48-yard strike to Brown to the Beaver 13, setting up McBee's second score — a 6-yard dive to tie it.

The defense set up the winning score after Beaver had driven into Hooker territory.

Brandon Gomez recovered a Beaver fumble, setting the Bulldogs up at their own 48. Five plays later, McBee set sail for his third touchdown of the night, a 36-yard run to give Hooker a 21-14 lead.

Hooker added a late touchdown when Metcalf intercepted a Cain pass at the Hooker 41 with 31 seconds left in the game. Runs of 15 and 38 yards by McBee led to the senior's fourth and final score of the game — another 6-yard scamper to give Hooker the win going away.

Metcalf was 12-for-25 passing for 156 yards for Hooker, with Brown catching 5 for 98 yards.

McBee carried 20 times for 166 yards and four touchdowns, while Metcalf carried 19 times for 49 yards.

“(McBee) has been reliable for me for the last three years,” Kreamer said. “He did a good job of getting the job done. Dayton, I’m proud of him, after that fumble, he kept his head in the game, composed himself and ran the offense.”

Hadley Skaggs rushed 22 times for 96 yards, and Cain was 2-for-6 passing for 78 yards and two scores for Beaver.