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By JASON EPP

Daily Leader

TURPIN — The Turpin Cardinals turned a close game into a rout scoring

41 second half points to defeat Shamrock, Texas, 48-0. Both teams seamed to have early season jitters combining for 16 turnovers, and

18 penalties. Shamrock, who had already played one game in week zero in Texas committed 11 turnovers and had 12 penalties.

"We corrected a lot of our mistakes and played much better in the second half," said Cardinal head coach Mario Mendoza. "But even though is was a big win, we have to cut out the mental mistakes.

We've got a lot to work on."

Turpin looked great on their first offensive opportunity when sophomore Matt Mendoza scored on a 40 yard inside run on the Cardinals fourth play.

Turpin's next three possessions began in Shamrock territory at the 22, 31 and 35. But two potential touchdowns were dropped and two bad snaps left Turpin clinging to a 7-0 lead, as the Irish tookover at the Cardinal 30 with 11 minutes left in the second guarter.

Fumbles again plagued both teams with fumbles ending each of the next three drives. After two punts, three more drives were ended with turnovers as both teams headed to the locker room hoping to find a way to correct their mistakes.

Turpin began the second half fast when Cody Levens redeemed himself for dropped passes earlier in the game with a 51 yard touchdown run to give the Cardinals a 14-0 lead. Levens had also ended Shamrock's deepest trip into Turpin territory with an interception to end the first half.

Shamrock continued to give Turpin opportunities when Aaron Kuns recoverd a fumble at the Irish 27. But Konner Hood gave it back when he had the ball knocked loose on a cut back inside at the 15.

Shamrock was able to mount a drive with four first downs that put them in Cardinal territory at the 43. But the Cardinal defense stiffend and the Irish were forced to punt. Turpin was forced to punt on their next possession, and Shamrock took over at their own 41.

Justin McIntyre recovered another Shamrock fumble, he had three recoveries in the game. Konner Hood made quick work of the turnover and scampered 42 yards on the next play to give the Cardinals a 21-0 lead with 40 seconds left in the third.

On the insuing drive, Shamrock was able to move into Turpin territory. But Aaron Kuns made a leaping interception at the 45 and returned it for an apparent touchdown. A block in the back negated the touchdown, but Turpin still took over at the Irish 28. Turpin quickly returned the favor with a fumble. Then Kade Goodwin intercepted Shamrock and returned 24 yards for the touchdown to make it 28-0.

The Cardinals then scored on three consecutive drives. Mendoza scored on a 24 yard run, Stern Douglas from 6 yards out and Bradley Kinser ran it in from 10 to give the Cardinals a 48-0 win.

Statistically Turpin only outgained Shamrock 258 - 230 in total yards, and both teams ended with nine first downs. But turnovers and big plays went decisively Turpin's way, and turned the game into a rout.

Matt Mendoza led Turpin in rushing with 83 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries. Konner Hood added 82 yards on 13 carries and one touchdown. The Cardinals had no yards passing. Aaron Kuns led the defense with nine tackles.

Turpin will travel to Enid next Friday to take on Oklahoma Bible Academy in a district matchup. Game starts at 7:30.