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• Daily Leader

DODGE CITY — With five minutes to go before half, the Liberal Redskins were in a battle with the Dodge City Red Demons. Trailing 14-3, the Redskin defense held Dodge City to a fourth down. But the Red Demons never punted. Dodge City faked the kick and ran for the first down. The Red Demons went on to score on the drive, and the Redskins never recovered in a 55-17 loss.

The play on the field had the appearance of a rivalry game early. But an early controversial call that went Dodge City's way created an uphill battle for the Redskins.

Liberal appeared to have stopped Dodge City's Jace Banner after three Redskins rolled the Dodge City standout across the turf.

According to the officials, Banner's knee never touched the turf although it appeared his shoulders did, and he was not whistled down. Banner stood looking at the official, then started to jog toward the end zone and the official followed, signaling that Banner had scored the initial touchdown on a 32-yard uncontested run.

Standley questioned the call to no avail, pointing to the replay board that showed the tackle in slow motion.

The Dodge City scoring drive began with an interception, one of four turnovers on the night for the Redskins.

Quarterback Slader McVey played through an injury until the final possession of the game, obviously struggling with his mobility, a strength of his game. McVey rushed the ball once in the entire game. After the questionable touchdown by Dodge, Liberal responded on the next possession with a field goal sparked by a pass from McVey to Jade Cathey for 37 yards.

Dodge City scored again early in the second quarter after a punt return gave the Red Demons the ball at the Liberal 19 yard line. A touchdown pass put the Redskins down 14-3.

Lavondrick Martin took the ensuing kick-off 51 yards and gave the Redskins good field position at the Red Demon 39 yard line. Two complete passes to Tyson Deaton gave the Redskins the ball at the 20 yard line.

But an attempt to find Cathey in the end zone was intercepted.

Nine plays later, Dodge City faced a fourth and 11 at their own 39 yard line.

They faked the kick and ran for the first down.

Redskin iron man Michael Cummins limped off the field after the play, and on the next Dodge City snap, Banner broke through the Redskin defense for a 52-yard touchdown run.

Liberal had good field position after a strong kick-off return at their own 43 yard line, and McVey completed a pass to Cathey for a short gain. But the ball was stripped out of Cathey's hands and taken

Burned in Dodge Injuries mount in 55-17 loss

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to the Liberal 10 yard line.

On third and nine, Dodge City threw a pass to the goal line, the receiver put a juke on corner Chandler Brockett and scored.

Dodge tacked on a field goal before half to score 17 points in five minutes to take a 31-3 halftime lead.

Dodge City continued to dominate in the second half and shot out to a 55-3 lead.

Liberal tacked on two late scores against Dodge City reserves with passes from McVey to Kyle Potts and Cathey and had a chance at a third touchdown with a first and goal at the 10 yard line. But Dodge City substituted their starting defense back in the game, and the Redskins failed to convert a field goal attempt in the 55-17 loss.

Liberal generated 194 yards of offense to Dodge City's 420.

Banner ended the night with 196 yards rushing against the Redskin defense.

McVey completed six of 20 attempts for 121 yards, three interceptions and two touchdowns.

McVey came out on the final drive due to the nagging pain from his injury.

Martin also suffered a game-ending injury, and another Redskin had an apparent shoulder separation.

"We will evaluate those injuries," Standley said.

The late scores gave the Redskins something positive to build on for next week's homecoming game with Garden City who lost to Hays 17-16 Friday.

"It was a positive way to end the game," Standley said. "They kept fighting. Now we will go to work. We will come in for film and watch film, we'll teach them what they did wrong and go to work on Monday."