

## Dragons drop season opener to visiting Springs Valley, 46-29

Written by George Browning

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There was a not too familiar sight last Friday night at Silver Creek High School. The stands at the track were filled with fans proudly wearing their orange and blue, which is not uncommon during the spring sports season, but this is August and the fall sports season. The fans piled into the stands were ready to cheer on their home standing Dragons during their second home football game in three years. Fans arrived early enjoying tailgating and all things fun for football season. The Dragons showed a lot of heart and determination giving the crowd something to cheer about but Silver Creek fell to the visiting Blackhawks of Springs Valley, 46-29.

Friday night's varsity match up was just the second home game for the Dragons in three seasons as the team was granted one varsity contest by the IHSAA in 2010. The Dragons fell in the 2010 contest 55-20 to Springs Valley. This season is the first full season of hosting Dragon football since the 1942 campaign.

Springs Valley won the opening coin toss and chose to defer to the second half. The Dragons received the ball to begin the contest on the 50 yard line. Silver Creek's first drive lasted nine plays and covered 44 yards. The Blackhawks' defense stopped the Silver Creek drive on the six yard line.

Silver Creek's defense also stopped the first series for the Blackhawks. Both teams' defense again stopped offensive drives to finish the opening quarter scoreless.

The second stanza gave the Silver Creek faithful something to cheer about as senior Lane Taylor found his way to the endzone. The 60-yard run was nullified by a clipping penalty during the run. A second attempt to find the endzone, ended with the same result. During the next play, Taylor again scampered down the sideline to the endzone. The second touchdown was called back due to a holding penalty. The Blackhawks ended the Dragon drive when senior Levi Weddle picked off junior quarterback Brooks Howell.

Springs Valley took advantage of the turnover. The Blackhawks used a seven play drive to find the endzone. Weddle ran the ball in from four yards out. The two point conversion was good as Weddle hooked up with junior Trenton Hill. Springs Valley held the early advantage, 8-0, with 4:04 remaining in the first half.

The Dragons answered on a seven play drive of their own as Howell hooked up with classmate Drew Sherrow for the 25 yard touchdown strike. The two point conversion was good as Howell again found Sherrow the the conversion. The game was knotted at 8 with 1:51 left in the first half of play.

The Blackhawks found the endzone once again with seconds left in the half. Weddle hooked up with classmate Jacob Nachreiner for the touchdown. The two point conversion was good as Weddle found the goal line with 9.6 seconds remaining in the half. Springs Valley held the 16-8 advantage heading into the halftime break.

Springs Valley received the second half kick off and drove the ball down the field. Weddle found the goal line from one yard out and tacked on the two point conversion. The Blackhawks then held the 24-8 advantage with 6:39 left in the third quarter of play.

Silver Creek would quickly answer as Taylor received the kick off and rambled down the field to pay dirt for the Dragons. The two point conversion was good as Howell again hooked up with Sherrow to pull Silver Creek back within eight, 24-16, with 6:22 remaining in the third period of play.

It only took the Blackhawks 79 seconds to extend the lead back to 16 as Weddle found the endzone from two yards out. The two point conversion was good by Weddle for the 32-16

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Blackhawk advantage with 5:03 left in the third quarter.

The Dragons would close out the scoring in the third stanza as senior Romney Allen found the endzone from four yards out. The two point conversion attempt failed as Springs Valley held the 32-22 advantage heading into the final 12 minutes of play.

Springs Valley would find the scoreboard first in the final stanza as Weddle hooked up with Hill for a touchdown pass before Weddle added the two point conversion. The Blackhawks held the 40-22 advantage with 9:24 left in the ballgame.

Silver Creek would only need three plays to find the endzone as Howell hooked up with Taylor on a 19 yard catch and run to the endzone. Dragon senior Trevor Spense split the uprights for the extra point. Springs Valley held the 40-29 lead with 7:12 remaining in the contest.

Blackhawk Weddle would close out the scoring in the game with a touchdown run at the 1:14 mark. The extra point attempt failed as Springs Valley would take the 46-29 victory.

“We have the athletes to win. We’re just not getting the job done on defense. I thought offensively we looked really well. We moved the ball effectively. We can score points. Tonight our kick off team let us down. They started on their own 40,” stated Silver Creek head coach Mike Donahue.

The Dragons will open Mid Southern Conference play this Friday night as they travel to face the Lions of Salem. Kick-off is set for 7 p.m.