

## **Dragons take Senior Night victory, 69-30, over Crawford County Wolfpack**

Written by Michael Ross

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Silver Creek faithful were able to help make history for the football team last Friday night. The Dragons hosted their first Senior Night since the 1940's. Silver Creek honored 11 senior football players before the match up with Crawford County.

The 11 seniors and their team enjoyed the 69-30 victory over the visiting Wolfpack before taking their time leaving their home field for what could be the last time in their high school career. After Silver Creek head coach Mike Donahue dismissed the team, some seniors were not quite ready to walk off the field. Seniors were seen relaxing on the 50 yard line or sitting in the endzone taking in and making their last memories on the gridiron at Silver Creek.

"I have 11 seniors, most of them have been with me all four seasons. They are a phenomenal group. They came back for their senior year and we finished the season sixth in the conference. We finished ahead of North Harrison, whose been around for a while, and Eastern and that says a lot," Donahue stated. "Since most teams who just start up don't win a game until their third season and we won three this year."

The Dragons finished the regular season 3-6 enjoying victories over North Harrison (35-15), Eastern (44-18) and Crawford County (69-30). The point total in last Friday's season finale was the most points scored by the Dragons since the return of varsity football.

The Dragons started the scoring fast and furious as they scored on their first six possessions. Junior quarterback Brooks Howell hit freshman Austin Hasting for a 55 yard touchdown strike. The extra point attempt from senior kicker Trevor Spense was no good for the early 6-0 lead at the 11:43 mark of the first quarter.

The Wolfpack's first two possessions both ended with senior quarterback Seth Fell being picked off by the Dragons.

Dragon sophomore Jordan Betts bulldozed his way two yards to paydirt at the 6:02 mark in the first stanza of play. Spense tacked on the extra point for the 13-0 advantage.

After the second interception of Crawford County, the Dragons started on their own 18 yard line. Senior running back Layne Taylor scampered 82 yards to the goal line. Silver Creek elected to go for the two point conversion as junior Jake Meadors hit junior Brad Graham in the endzone for the two point conversion. The Dragons held the 21-0 lead at the 3:17 mark of the quarter. The score would prove to be the last of the opening quarter of play.

The next Dragon to find the endzone was senior Adam Wilder at the 10:29 mark of the first half. The extra point attempt was no good as Silver Creek pushed their lead to 27-0.

Crawford County was forced to a three and out on their next possession, leaving the Dragons on their own 19 yard line. Silver Creek only needed seven plays to find the endzone as Taylor sprinted 40 yards to the goal line. The extra point attempt by Spense split the uprights for the 34-0 Dragon lead.

Crawford County was again forced to punt by the Dragon defense.

The Dragons received the ball on their own 22 yard line. This time, Creek only needed two plays to find the endzone. Junior Drew Sherrow did the majority of the work as he rambled up the right side line for a 75 yard gain before being taken down on the Wolfpack two yard line. Silver Creek senior Ben Davis then powered his way up the middle for the Dragon touchdown. Spense nailed the extra point to give Silver Creek the 41-0 lead with 4:33 remaining in the half.

The final score of the first half came from the Dragons defense as junior Zach Reynolds picked off Fell for the third time in the half. Reynolds sprinted 23 yards for Silver Creek's fourth touchdown of the second stanza. Spense tacked on the extra point for the 48-0 Dragon lead

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heading into the halftime break.

The Dragons' lead allowed some of the underclassmen the opportunity to gain some valuable varsity experience. The second half began with the starters cheering on their teammates from the sideline.

After the ballgame Donahue explained the game plan.

"We were planning on putting in the underclassmen at the beginning of the third quarter," Donahue explained.

The game plan had to be adjusted slightly as the Wolfpack scored a quick 30 points on the Dragons' second string to force the starters back into the ballgame. The third quarter and part of the fourth belonged to the visiting Wolfpack as they found the endzone four times. Three of the scores came from Fell hooking up with senior B.J. Mahoney for touchdown passes. The final score came from sophomore Andrew Patton from three yards out.

"Their coach was very understanding and there were no hard feelings," Donahue stated. "Because he would have done the same thing (returning the starters to the game)."

After a little rest, the starters returned to the game ready to finish what they had started.

Once the starters were back, they needed a mere 14 seconds to find the endzone after the Crawford County score.

Silver Creek's Howell hit Hastings for a 56 yards touchdown strike before Spense tacked on the extra point to extend the Dragons lead to 25, 55-30.

Less than three minutes later, Silver Creek celebrated another touchdown. Senior Romney Allen dove from one yard out to pay dirt. Spense again nailed the extra point for the 62-30 Dragon advantage at the 8:39 mark of the ballgame.

The final score of the ballgame would come as junior Eli Jones rambled 22 yards to the endzone. Spense split the uprights for the 69-30 Silver Creek Senior Night victory.

"They were fired up tonight. Offensively and defensively we were clicking. This is the highest point total we had since varsity football has returned," Donahue stated. "I think we had over 400 yards in the first half and we held them to 88 (yards). Layne (Taylor) had 202 yards in the first half."

The seniors were emotional after the ballgame and many shared an embrace with Coach Donahue. The fond memories made on Senior Night will be remembered by the 11 seniors for the rest of their lives. Seniors celebrating the victory were: Layne Taylor, Ben Davis, Dylan Paynter, Jared Sowders, Trevor Spense, Romney Allen, Ethan Martin, Tyler Gregory, Nate Nolley, Tyler Forehand and Adam Wilder.

The Dragons (3-6) will travel to Corydon Central (7-2) for their opening game of Sectional 23. Kick off is set for 7 p.m. this Friday night, October 19.