

by MICHAEL ROSS jross@gbpnews.com “You just made history tonight. You just won your fourth game, you just won your first 4A game and you just won your first Sectional game,” Silver Creek head coach Mike Donahue stated to his team after Friday night’s 49-41 victory over the Pioneers of Boonville.

The Dragons hosted their first ever Sectional game Friday night as football weather finally made an appearance for Friday Night Football. Fans broke out the orange hoodies before huddling together in blankets to try to stay warm as they cheered on their home standing Dragons. Or they visited the concession stand for one of the best selling items of the night, hot chocolate!

It didn’t take long for Silver Creek to warm up the scoreboard as the Dragons found the endzone on their first possession. Dragon senior Bobby Haines broke free and sprinted down the field to the endzone before junior Cameron Cook tacked on the extra point. Silver Creek held the early 7-0 advantage.

The Dragons defense forced Boonville to punt the ball. During Silver Creek’s possession, the Dragons were forced into a third and 10. Senior quarterback Brooks Howell targeted Haines. The ball deflected off Haines straight into the hands of sophomore Austin Hasting for the Silver Creek touchdown. Cook split the uprights to give the Dragons the 14-0 advantage at the 5:36 mark of the first quarter.

Boonville would find the scoreboard on the next possession. Sophomore quarterback Lane Kirkland hooked up with senior Jacob Newton for a 52 yard touchdown catch and run. Senior kicker Luke Parker tacked on the extra point to cut the Dragons lead in half, 14-7, with 3:13 remaining in the first period.

Silver Creek needed just 18 seconds to answer.

Haines broke free for a 81 yard touchdown run. Cook added the extra point for the 21-7 Silver Creek advantage. The score would be the last of the quarter.

Both teams traded possessions to begin the second stanza. At the 7:12 mark, Haines found the endzone for the third time as he scampered six yards to paydirt. Cook added the extra point for the 28-7 Silver Creek lead.

Late in the half Boonville cut the score in half once again as Kirkland hooked up with senior Joe Johnson. Parker tacked on the extra point for the 28-14 Dragon lead heading into the halftime break.

The scoring slowed down in the third quarter. Boonville found the endzone with 2.7 seconds to go in the quarter for the only score in the period. Newtown found the endzone from one yard out before Parker added the extra point. Silver Creek held the 28-21 lead heading into the final 12 minutes of play.

The Dragons only needed 93 seconds to find the endzone. Howell hit senior Drew Sherrow for a 12 yard touchdown strike. The score extended the Silver Creek lead back to 14, 35-21, at the 10:27 mark.

Dragons have historic night in win over Boonville

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Boonville wouldn't go away as the Pioneers would cut the lead to seven again as Newton went around the left side for the short touchdown run. Parker added the extra point at the 8:01 mark for the 35-28 Silver Creek lead.

The Dragons would extend their lead back to 21 on a kick off return for a touchdown by Haines and Howell hooked up with Sherrow. Cook added both extra points to give Silver Creek the 49-28 lead with 2:33 remaining in the ballgame.

Booneville would answer the scores as Kirkland hooked up with Jarrod Hemmings for a 25 yard touchdown pass. Parker would miss the extra point to cut the lead to 15 at the 2:10 mark, 49-34.

The Pioneers recovered the onside kick. During the drive Kirkland was picked off by Silver Creek sophomore Drew Foley.

Silver Creek fumbled the ball as Boonville's Johnson recovered and returned it for a touchdown. Parker tacked on the extra point at the 1:05 mark of the ballgame. The score would prove to be the last of the ballgame as the Dragons would capture the 49-41 Class 4A Sectional 24 opening round victory.

"Unbelievable!," Coach Donahue stated after being asked how it felt to capture Silver Creek's first Football Sectional victory. "I felt like we could win the game. We had the best week of practice we've had this year. I knew they (Boonville) wouldn't give up. It wasn't a pretty game."

Coach Donahue concluded, "Our defense was outstanding tonight. Bobby (Haines) had nice runs tonight. Brooks (Howell) was on with his passing and Drew (Sherrow) played outstanding."

The Dragons (4-6) will travel to Evansville Reitz (7-3) Friday night for Sectional 24 Semi-Final action. Kick off is scheduled for 8 p.m. local time.