

Round 1: Pilot Point vs. Boyd

One of the themes Coach Feldt set out for us at the beginning of the year was he broke the season down into 3 parts. Non-district was for creating an identity. District was to fine tune our team and win our first trophy of course. Then finally, the playoffs. This is where we would either cement our legacy of one of the greatest Pilot Point teams of all time or add to a list of promising teams that would ultimately come up short of the ultimate goal. We had sailed through the first two “seasons” within the season, and we were ready for the final stretch. At this point in the season anything less than a state championship would be unacceptable, and Boyd would be the first team to stand in our way. Pilot Point vs. Boyd had only played 10 or so times in the two school’s history, but it was a match-up known for close hard-fought playoff games. A 13-13 tie in the 1983 state area finals. The 7-6 win in the 1993 state quarterfinals and more recently the 32-28 come from behind win in the 1st round of the 2008 playoffs. That game in 2008 was a back and forth game where we were down 9 with 8 minutes left in the game when Seth Tilley hit Nathaniel Riegal for a 65-yard Touchdown on a perfect wheel route down the sideline. We followed that up with a defensive stop and a go-ahead touchdown drive with 3:16 left in the game. On the ensuing kickoff our kicker mis-struck the ball causing it to flutter up in the air about 15 yards down field when sophomore Austin Balderas got under it and caught it to seal the come from behind win. Both teams were ready to add to this history Friday night.

Boyd had high hopes coming into the year. They were ranked in the top 5 by Dave Campbell’s Texas Football magazine to start the season and were returning a lot of players from the year before. Boyd got off to a slow start in 2009 by going 1-4, but their non-district schedule was brutal. All 5 teams they played in their non-district would go on to make the playoff’s that year and 2 of those teams would finish with undefeated regular seasons (Gunter & Godley). They finished the regular season by going 5-0 and winning their district schedule. Their record might have showed 6-4, but they were battle tested and ready for war.

We didn’t let Boyd’s 6-4 record fool us because we had not forgotten the fight they gave us in 2008. Boyd was one of the only 2A teams around that would roll out offensive and defensive lines as big as our own. Boyd’s QB Tim Fleming was huge!!! You could see of film how good of a runner he was. He was fast and pretty elusive, but the thing that stood out the most was how hard it was to bring

him down. We were familiar with him based off of our '08 match-up but I didn't remember him being so big. I mentioned how big Boyd was in the trenches, but on their defensive line, they weren't very strong or athletic. We knew going in that our o-line would dominate their d-line, as we had so many that year. The only real addition Boyd had made from '08 was a stud sophomore RB/MLB Colton Lyon. He wore #46 and had one of those butterfly neck braces that made him look bigger than he really was. He was fast, physical, and had a nose for the football. We know he would present a challenge.

In 2008 we played at a neutral field somewhat in the middle of our two towns at Justin Northwest ISD stadium, but I guess we lost the coin flip this year and we had to play in Springtown at their nice stadium. They're turf was orange and black which made us feel at home, but we had to drive through Boyd to get there. In the locker room before the game I walked outside to get another look at the field, and I saw Boyd walking in a single file line from their locker room towards the field. Leading the way was a monster. He immediately caught my eye, because he looked like a super athlete! It was their QB #9 Tim Fleming. Turns out he had grown a few inches and put on a few pounds (probably 15lbs) of muscle in the off season. I remember thinking that tackling him was going to be tough, but our defense will rise to the occasion. Like I mentioned, they had a lot of big lineman, but none that looked very intimidating. They looked soft and I knew we were going to push them around. All night.

Playoff football was finally here, and Boyd was getting the ball first. We kicked it short it was fair caught by Boyd, and it seemed before the whistle even blew, our defense was sprinting to get out there. The first drive however, didn't go as we had hoped. Boyd led a long drive where they were gaining 3 to 6 yards every snap. Later in the drive Fleming dropped back to pass and he was looking for the curl route that he had already completed twice on the drive, but we had locked it down. Being the athlete that he was he made a line-backer miss and he had some open room to run. He took it all the way down inside the 10 and a few plays later sophomore RB Colton Lyon punched it in for a 6-yard run. I knew our defense was solid and should recover, but that is when I got my first flash back of the game we had in '08. I knew how important it would be for our team to answer back and boy did we ever. We took the kickoff and on our first play we ran a play action bootleg pass where QB Seth Tilley rolled out and hit Tight end Mason Guthrie about 9-yards up field. Mason turned it up and rumbled 65-yards breaking two tackles in the process and falling into the endzone for a touchdown. Unlike Boyd, we converted the extra point and took a 7-6 lead. Boyd's offense got

right back at it. We had a promising start to the drive forcing them into a 3rd and 8 when they handed the ball off to their RB Lyon, and we looked like we had him in a pile about 6 yards up field, he somehow squeaked out of the pile and ran 63 yards for Boyd's answer to our touchdown. Just like the first drive, we had to answer. Jarman took the kickoff back for a good gain and gave us the ball already in Boyd's territory. Early in the game we were making a real effort to throw the ball and it was working. We had a balanced attack down the field on that drive and we were keeping a clean pocket for Tilley to work out of. We answered Boyd's second touchdown with a 9-yard slant from Tilley to Justin Chambers for Tilley's 2nd passing TD of the game. The score was now 14-13. Our defense dug deep on the next drive and forced a couple of incompletions and forced a Boyd punt. We knew offensively that we could really help take some pressure off of our defense if we could score here and it would also force Boyd into a situation where they would have to start answering our scores, which would be a bad proposition for them (foreshadowing). The run game had been working on the first two drives but didn't seem to be the focus. That had now shifted, and we were ready to use our strength and nastiness up front to take control of the game, and it didn't take long. A few plays into our 3rd drive we ran a sweep left with Jarman. We did a good job at the point of attack, but also sealed off the back side well and Jarman found cut back, (his ability to do that made him so special) and what started off as a sweep left ended up in the right corner of the endzone 58 yards down field. We had taken a 21-13 lead and the pressure was on Boyd. They responded with a hardnose physical drive where they answered our TD drive with one of their own punctuated by a 2-yard TD run by Lyon and his 3rd TD run of the game. They converted their 2-pt attempt and midway through the 2nd quarter it was a 21-21 game. It was shaping up to be another classic and the offense took the field to try and answer Boyd's TD with another one of our own. We stalled out and Boyd forced a turnover on downs. The pressure was on our defense now. We couldn't let them take the lead back and take that momentum into half time. The defense who had been great all year was having their troubles tonight, but I feel they sensed the urgency of needing a stop here. It was only the 2nd quarter and we had a lot of football game left to play, but there was a sense of importance on this drive. You see this in football all the time. A defense has been getting driven on all night, but in a big moment, the defense that can step up and get one stop when it is needed always gets rewarded. Our defense rose to the occasion and forced the stop and we rewarded them. We rewarded them with a long touchdown drive ended by an 8-yard TD run by Jarman Johnson. We went into half time up 28-21

and we were getting the ball to start the second half. The only way our offense was going to be slowed down was by self-inflicted wounds and a promising drive to start the second half was derailed by a penalty. It put us in a tough spot, and we weren't able to convert a 4th down and Boyd was looking to take the momentum back. A solid drive and a few big plays helped Boyd get in the endzone again on another 18-yard TD run by Colton Lyon. That would be his 4th of the game. They failed the extra point again and we had a 28-27 lead midway through the 3rd quarter. Enough was enough and it was time to assert our dominance along the o-line. The second half we had a play that Boyd could not seem to stop. It was basically any play where we handed the ball to Jarman, but specifically "Cisco Con". It was our Counter-run left. The left side would cave that side of the line down, I would pull around and seal or kick-out the defensive end (depending on the look he gave me) and big Cam Feldt would lead the way through the hole. It seemed like every time we ran it Jarman got loose and Boyd was trying to chase him down. After they stopped us to open the second half, we scored every time we touched the ball. We ended the 3rd quarter with long TD runs by Jarman of 22-yards and 62-yards. We traded scores to start the 4th quarter, Boyd QB Fleming scored his first TD of the game on a 5-yard run. We answered that with a 25-yard Ruben Martinez field goal, but to Boyd's credit they kept coming. Tim Fleming would add another 4-Yard TD run and midway through the 4th quarter it was 45-42. The last few minutes of the 4th quarter where what we had spent all off-season training for. All Summer working for. Those 15 100-yard sprints we ran in the summer was about finishing games. All that work needed to come through now and it shined bright. Coming to the line of scrimmage in the 4th quarter it was apparent who had worked harder. We came running up the line every play greeted by the Boyd d-line breathing heavy and their hands on their hips. Blood was in the water and it was time to close in for the kill. The last half of the 4th quarter we pounded Boyd into submission with 2 more TD's by Jarman on runs of 10 & 7 bringing his Touchdown total to 6 on the night. Our defense answered the bell as well forcing a fumble and an interception. It was over and we could finally exhale. Towards the end, Cam Feldt and I decided to have a little fun with the Boyd defensive lineman between play and they clearly weren't having as much fun as we were. At one point had a Boyd player tell me "if you ever came to Boyd, I'll hang you." I felt that was a bit aggressive, but I saw what his physical limitations were that night, and let's just say, I don't think he could've done it.

When it was all said and done we won 59-42. It didn't feel like a 3-score game, but the work we had put in is what separated the two teams. A few things of significance happened that night, other than a playoff win. Jarman Johnson had the greatest single game rushing performance in Pilot Point history with 383 yards rushing, out doing his cousin Jarail Johnson who had 373 yards in a regular season game in 2003. He also became the greatest single season rusher in Pilot Point history by eclipsing another family member of his mark of 2056 yard in the 1985 season. Now I could have misunderstood what was happening, but I believe when the game was over Jarman's mother came over to him with a phone in her hand and I believe it was Keith Johnson on the phone congratulating him on the accomplishment. Jarail was in the stands that night supporting as well so I thought that was a cool moment. After the game a newspaper was interviewing Boyd's long-time head coach JG Cartwright and they asked him how he thought the game went and he responded with "I think we just hung 42 points on the state champs." That was a pretty cool thing to hear coming from a coach who had been around a long time and seen a lot of great teams.

One down 4 more to go. Next week we will move to the second round with another rematch of a classic form 2008 in the Gunter Tigers.

THE GAME AT A GLANCE

<p>Pilot Point 59 Boyd 42</p> <p>Pilot Point 14 14 14 17 — 59 Boyd 13 8 6 15 — 42</p> <p>First Quarter B — Colton Lyon 6 run (kick failed) PP — Mason Guthrie 65 pass from Seth Tilley (Ruben Martinez kick) B — Lyon 63 run (Edgar Lugo kick) PP — Justin Chambers 9 pass from Tilley (Martinez kick)</p>	<p>Second Quarter PP — Jarman Johnson 58 run (Martinez kick) B — Lyon 2 run (Kyle Stearns pass from Tim Fleming) PP — Johnson 8 run (Martinez kick)</p> <p>Third Quarter B — Lyon 18 run (kick failed) PP — Johnson 22 run (Martinez kick) PP — Johnson 62 run (Martinez kick)</p> <p>Fourth Quarter B — Fleming 5 run (Lugo kick) PP — Martinez 25 field goal</p>	<p>B — Fleming 4 run (Ryan Wilson pass from Fleming) PP — Johnson 10 run (Martinez kick) PP — Johnson 7 run (Martinez kick)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE YARDSTICK</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">PP</td> <td style="text-align: center;">B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Downs</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rushes-Yds.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">43-425</td> <td style="text-align: center;">42-384</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Passing Yds.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">131</td> <td style="text-align: center;">153</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comp-Att-Int</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10-13-0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11-18-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Punts</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2-52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fumbles-lost</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Penalties-Yds.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5-58</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6-30</td> </tr> </table>		PP	B	First Downs	24	24	Rushes-Yds.	43-425	42-384	Passing Yds.	131	153	Comp-Att-Int	10-13-0	11-18-1	Punts	0-0	2-52	Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1	Penalties-Yds.	5-58	6-30	<p style="text-align: center;">Individual Statistics</p> <p>Rushing — Pilot Point, Johnson 28-383, Tilley 11-41, Jeremy Jackson 4-11. Boyd, Fleming 18-172, Lyon 15-145, Wilson 8-64, Tim Warner 1-3.</p> <p>Passing — Pilot Point, Tilley 10-13-0 131. Boyd, Fleming 11-17-1 153, Warner 0-1-0 0.</p> <p>Receiving — Pilot Point, Johnson 4-26, Justin Chambers 3-25, Guthrie 1-65, J.P. Price 1-10, Colin Noe 1-5, Boyd, Stearns 7-95, Lugo 2-19, Wilson 1-22, Travis Williams 1-17.</p>
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