

Brady secures home-field playoff advantage

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Eagles shut out Cardinals 38-0.

When Bob Frederickson took over as head coach of the Brady football team this season, he had some high expectations.

Before the ball was snapped in the first game in September, Frederickson hoped his Eagles could finish the regular season with a 6-2 record and host a state playoff game.

The Eagles have managed one of those goals.

Brady will play at home this week when the D-2 state playoffs begin Thursday as the Eagles host Litchfield in the first round.

But as it turns out, Frederickson's other goal was just a little low.

With a 38-0 win over Hayes Center in the final regular-season game Thursday, Brady heads into the playoffs with a 7-1 record and a No. 6 seed in the west half of the D-2 bracket.

"I know how hard these kids have worked and I know what they're capable of," Frederickson said. "The boys have wanted this. They want to play at home and they want tradition to start right here."

Frederickson won't say that tradition is in place. After all, it had been 12 years since the Eagles were in the state playoffs before last season's first-round loss to Anslemo-Merna.

"But we're headed in the right direction, right down to the youth leagues," he said.

"Expectations are high throughout the football program. You've got to start somewhere."

The Eagles solidified their home-field advantage for the first-round playoff game with a convincing win over last year's Class D-2 state runner-up.

With just over a minute to go in the first quarter against the Cardinals, quarterback Kyle Pohlman hit receiver Tyler Egenberger with a 9-yard touchdown pass. A two-point conversion pass from Pohlman to Sawyer Burke gave the Eagles an 8-0 lead.

Senior Brad Ward got the first of his two touchdowns with five minutes to go in the first half when he ran in from 6 yards out. Christian Arterburn added the two-point conversion run putting the Eagles up 16-0.

About three minutes later, Pohlman threw up a 44-yard scoring pass to Dalton Riedel. The senior tight end also caught a pass from Burke on the two-point conversion giving Brady a 24-0 lead.

And once more before time ran out in the first half, Pohlman completed another scoring pass to Egenberger 22 yards out. The two-point conversion failed but Brady went to the locker room up 30-0.

"We came out really strong," Frederickson said, "and it was kind of surprising that Hayes Center played with no

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