

Eagles pick up crucial win over Wallace

Written by Deb Egenberger
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With a couple of key players back on the football field for the Brady Eagles this week, a sense of urgency pushed the team to a 42-26 victory over Wallace.

Senior Matt Litzenberger made his debut this week after having battled illness to start the season.

At 6-foot-4 and 275 pounds, Litzenberger is a force on the line, said coach Andy Seamann.

“Having Matt back in the middle of the line not only helped us run up the middle but it also opened up some things on the edge,” Seamann said.

Brady’s running game was not flawless, Seamann said, but much stronger than in weeks past.

“We blocked a whole lot better than we have been,” the coach said. “For Zach (Mann) to pick up 216 yards rushing, you know something was working right.”

Mann, the senior quarterback, not only had a huge night running the ball with four touchdowns and three two-point conversions but he also completed seven passes for 107 yards in the air.

With running back Michael Neiman back to full speed after an elbow injury, the Eagles had running options.

“It seemed like things clicked,” Seamann said. “We had good energy that was obvious during warm-ups and it carried right on through the end of the game.

Brady took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter and kept pushing the Wildcats with 22 more points in

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the second period for a 28-14 lead at halftime.

The Eagles never let up in the second half, scoring two more touchdowns in the third period.

Freshman receiver Troy Lusk finished with 76 yards on a pair of catches.

Defensively, Brady was led by sophomore Levi Destafano, who accumulated 13 solo tackles with five assists. Mann added 14 total tackles and Cole Viter pitched in 10.

With the win, Brady improves to 2-4 on the season with a road game at Hayes Center this week.

Seamann said the Cardinals, also 2-4, have a strong running back, Seth Gohl, and they will be coming off a bye week.

“They’ve had two weeks to prepare for us so I know it’s going to be a tough game,” the coach said.

He has emphasized to the Eagles that to keep the state playoff streak going and make it to the post season for four years straight, Brady is going to have to win the remaining two regular season games.

Hitchcock County, the final opponent on the schedule, is also 2-3.

“These are absolutely winnable games,” Seamann said. “And we’re going to have to win the rest of our games if we want to get in the playoffs.”

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Friday's game at Hayes Center kicks off at 4 p.m. and will be followed by volleyball.