

Mann, team break records in final game

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Brady finishes season with 62-42 victory over Hitchcock County

Not many Nebraska high school football teams get to end their season with a win.

The Brady Eagles and their quarterback broke four school records Thursday night en route to a 62-42 victory over Hitchcock County in the final game of the regular season.

Unfortunately for the Eagles, though, their best offensive performance of the year wasn't enough to propell them into the post season.

"Of course we would have liked to have still been playing," said coach Andy Seamann. "But the season ended well. The kids played hard every snap of every game this year. I can't ask any more than that."

The Eagles finish the year with a 3-5 record, four places outside the playoff scene.

It's not where Seamann wanted his team to be but factoring in a tough schedule with young players and a heap of injuries, Seaman said the Eagles should be proud of their season.

And even more proud, he said, of the way it ended.

As a team, the Eagles accumulated 608 yards total offense with 82 attempts.

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The previous school record for offensive plays in a game was 75 set in 1982 and the former record for total offense came in 1987 at 505 yards.

“With the high wind, we knew we were going to have to run the ball a lot,” Seamann said. “The guys up front did a great job of making holes.”

Senior quarterback Zach Mann led the way with 306 yards rushing on 34 carries with four touchdowns and one two-point conversion.

Fellow senior Michael Neiman added 186 yards on 26 carries with two touchdowns and two two-point conversions.

Cole Viter accounted for two more Brady touchdowns and Troy Lusk finished out the scoring with a touchdown reception and a two-point conversion.

Mann’s rushing total sets a new school record.

The previous high mark for rushing yards by a player in one game was set by Brad Ward in 2010 when he ran for 304 yards against Maxwell.

Mann also picked up a record for total offense, combining his 306 yards rushing with 112 yards passing for a total of 418.

Nathan Stienike set the old record in 1993 with a total of 369 yards.

Seamann said Brady’s hurry-up offense kept Hitchcock County off-guard.

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“We were using a no-huddle offense and running plays as quickly as we could,” Seamann said. “It seemed to work well.”

Brady led Hitchcock County (2-6) 28-14 at halftime and held on for the victory despite a second-half comeback effort by the Falcons.

“There are a couple of games I’d like to have back,” Seamann said of Brady’s 3-5 finish. “But really, we faced a lot of adversity and the kids still worked to get better every game. That’s what you want from any team.”