

# Rockets pass over Cowboys to win 30-12

By Greg Stover  
The Goodland Star-News

The Rockets of Rose Hill High School thrilled the hometown crowd Saturday by beating the Goodland Cowboys 30-12 in the sectionals of the state Class 4A football playoffs.

The Rockets took off in the first quarter, scoring 16 unanswered points. They outscored Goodland 14-12 in the second. Neither team scored in the second half, making the final 30-12.

More than 250 fans from Goodland made the six-to-seven-hour trip to Stanley Stadium to cheer on the Cowboys, who finished their season 10-2 under first-year coach Jon McLean.

Senior James Hensley of Rose Hill returned the opening kickoff to the Rockets' 30-yard line. Two plays later, Rose Hill had first and 10 on the Goodland 48 when senior quarterback Jared McRae hit Hensley for a 48-yard pass and a touchdown. Hensley kicked the extra point and the Rockets led 7-0 with just over 30 seconds gone from the clock.

Junior Wyatt Dautel returned the subsequent kickoff nine yards to the Goodland 33. On the first play from scrimmage Dautel, in his first start at quarterback, pitched the ball to senior tailback Lane Winter, who tried to hit senior tight end Bret Jarmin on a deep pass. Hensley, playing defensive back, intercepted the ball, giving Rose Hill first and 10 on its own 27.

The Cowboys defense held the Rockets to "three-and-out," forcing a punt, however Rose Hill returned the favor and four plays later forced Goodland to punt. Starting from their own 47, the Rockets were able to drive to the Goodland nine, but Goodland defensive back Derek Fenner stopped the drive with an interception on the 3.

The Cowboys could not get anything going, and on third down Dautel was caught in the end zone by the Rose Hill linebacker Tyler Wilson for a safety, increasing the Rockets' lead to 9-0.

Returning the free kick by Goodland freshman Robert Doxon to the Cowboy 40, the Rockets drove to



Senior Drew Wilkens (with ball above) ran for nine yards on a punt return in the third quarter. Junior quarterback Wyatt Dautel (No. 8, right above) prepared to throw a pass as senior tailback Lane Winter gave him some protection. Cowboys defenders took down senior Blake Ringwall (No. 34, right below) of Rose Hill after a short gain.  
Photos by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

the 11, where McRae again connected with Hensley for a touchdown pass. Hensley's kick made it 16-0.

Senior David Livengood returned the subsequent kickoff 33 yards to midfield, from where the Cowboys drove to the Rose Hill 15 to end the first quarter. A pair of illegal procedure penalties backed Goodland up, and on second and 19 from the 24 Dautel hooked up with junior wide receiver Heath Chatfield for a 24-yard touchdown pass. The two-point conversion attempt failed and the score was 16-6.

The Rockets responded with a 68-yard drive capped off by McRae's third touchdown pass to Hensley. The successful kick increased their lead to 17 points at 23-6.

Following the kickoff, Rose Hill held Goodland to just four yards and on fourth and six forced the Cow-

boys to punt. After a 20-yard run by senior running back Blake Ringwall gave Rose Hill first and 10 on its own 48, the Goodland defense held, forcing a punt.

However, the Cowboys fumbled the return and the Rockets regained possession with first and 10 on the Goodland 34. Three plays later, McRae teamed up with Hensley for their fourth touchdown combination in the game. A kick made the score 30-6.

A personal foul on Rose Hill on the kickoff gave the Cowboys a first and 10 on the Rockets' 49, where, after a short gain by senior Drew Wilkens on a reverse, Dautel hit Chatfield with a pass for 40 yards and a first and goal on the 5.

Two plays later, senior fullback Brock Lohr bulled in for a touchdown. The pass for the two-point conversion missed and the score was now 30-12 with less than 90

seconds left in the half.

The third quarter was a defensive struggle during which each drive ended either with a punt or a failed fourth-down conversion.

In the fourth quarter, the Rockets played inspired defense, stopping all three Cowboy drives with interceptions. The third came on a fourth-and-11 conversion at midfield with a minute 21 second left in the game. McRae took a knee three times to end the game.

The Rockets outgained the Cowboys 318 to 178 and held the Goodland rushing attack to 89 yards. Another factor in Rose Hill's dominance was turnovers; the Cowboys gave up four interceptions and a fumble.

The Rockets held Lohr to just 45 yards on 16 carries, his lowest total of the season. Ringwall was the game's leading rusher with 131 yards.



The Rockets, now 8-4, get to play host to Ulysses on Friday in their sub-state game. The Tigers, 12-0 after defeating Wellington 28-22 in their sectional game, were the only team to defeat Goodland during the regular season.

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**School calendar for Nov. 17 - Nov. 23**

**Wednesday** - "Black Day"; PDC screening 3:45 p.m.; city/county recreation at the fieldhouse and junior high gym 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday** - "Gold Day"; Seminar - DECA and FCS; seventh and eighth grade basketball at Quinter 3:30 p.m.

**Friday** - "Black Day"; FCCLA dance at the high school gym; Nu Phi Mu craft fair set up at the fieldhouse 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday** - Nu Phi Mu craft fair at the fieldhouse all day.

**Monday** - Seventh and eighth grade basketball in Goodland against Oakley 3:30 p.m.; Board of Education meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday** - "Black Day"

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