

LESSONS

FROM **PAGE B1**

Landon Ritter recovered at the 31-yard line.

On the very next play, Egan stepped up in the pocket and threw to wide receiver B.J. Jewell who was wide open. However, Jewell mishandled the pass and it fell to the ground.

But neither Egan nor Jewell lost confidence. After two running plays, Egan again dropped back and looked for Jewell. The junior wide receiver was not as open this time, but the quarterback made the throw and this time Jewell came down with the ball in traffic for the touchdown.

“I do not believe in making up (for mistakes),” Jewell said on the field after the game. “I want to improve from the mistakes.

“I knew that he would look at me again,” the junior said. “When I get two hands on the ball, it should be a catch.”

Jewell also said that the feeling on the sideline was different in this game than it had been the week before when the lead changed hands. This time the Bullitt East sideline was boisterous and involved.

“At Bowling Green, when they got the lead, it was dead,” the player pointed out. “We have focused on keeping the hype up. That is all you can hope for.”

Twice after Jewell’s touchdown catch, Franklin County got the ball. The Bullitt East defense was ready, allowing just one first down and keeping the home team in the middle of

the field. Franklin County played most of those final two series without Barrett who was shaken up after a hard hit two plays after the touchdown and did not return to action.

Bullitt East head coach Keegan Kendrick was much happier with the way that his team responded after falling behind than he had been a week earlier.

“We have been talking to the kids about not worrying about the score or the officials, but to worry about doing their job,” the veteran coach said. “We tell them not to worry about the last play or the next play. Just compete in the present play.

“We are a young team,” Kendrick pointed out. “Last week we were on a college field (at Western Kentucky University) and there were some nerves and some fear of failure. We had 15 players starting a game for the first time. We had opportunities to win that game. We challenged them to come out tonight and create their changes and play downhill.”

Bullitt East seized the start of the game and seemed to be in complete control before the Flyers scored late in the first half to pull within 20-14 at halftime. That might have triggered a few memories of last year’s meeting in Mount Washington when the Flyers score twice late in the game to win 28-21.

The Chargers moved the ball from the start. After taking the opening kick-off, Bullitt East marched 59 yards in eight plays to score. Egan completed his first three passes and a first down run by Jack Pope for

six-yards moved the ball inside the 30-yard line.

The Chargers did jump off-sides on the next play. At the 34-yard line, Egan rolled to his right and then reversed field. The quarterback moved into the flat and then found Pope wide open on the left side of the end zone for the touchdown.

The extra point by Hughes made it 7-0 just three minutes into the game.

After a quick three and out, Bullitt East went on another long march. This time the red and gold collected four first downs and got as deep as the 2-yard line before a delay penalty (equipment) pushed them back. Payne ran the ball back to the 3-yard line, but on fourth down Kendrick went for the safer bet and had Hughes kick a 20-yard field goal.

The next Franklin County drive did secure a first down, but two plays later the Chargers’ Aiden Pentecost stepped in front of a Barrett pass and returned it 10-yards to the 28-yard line.

There was a pass interference penalty that moved the Chargers into the red zone again at the 14-yard line. This time there was no more forward movement and on third down Egan was sacked at the 14-yard line.

On the first play of the second quarter, Hughes swung his right leg again, connecting on the 30-yard kick and the 13-0 lead.

Suddenly Franklin County, a loser to Scott County in the first week of the season, found its

offense. Barrett completed all four of his passes in the drive including a 31-yard completion and then a 13-yard completion to move the ball to the 8-yard line. Two plays later, Barrett broke a few tackles and ran around the right side for a touchdown.

Bullitt East responded with another touchdown six plays later. A roughing the passer penalty on the third play of the drive was big and on the next play Egan ran for 13-yards to the Flyers’ 42-yard line. After an off-sides penalty on the home team, Egan dropped back and had plenty of time to survey the field before finding Pope wide open for the 37-yard touchdown pass.

Franklin County responded with a pair of big plays to narrow the gap just before halftime. The Flyers had a 35-yard halfback pass and then a 31-yard pass by Barrett to move the ball inside the Charger 10-yard line. Two plays later, Barrett kept the ball himself, running up the middle for an 8-yard touchdown with 1:46 remaining in the first half.

Bullitt East moved to the Flyers’ 30-yard line before time expired at the half.

In the third quarter, both teams moved the ball. Bullitt East got all the way to the 3-yard line following a blocked quick kick. A bad snap ended that threat. Franklin County rolled to midfield, but the defense held at that point. Bullitt East lost yardage on the next drive and ended up punting.

With 1:20 left in the quarter, Franklin County

started on their own 37-yard line. There was a 14-yard run and then a 19-yard run. At the Charger 30-yard line, the drive seemed to be stopped after two incompletions, but on third down, Barrett stepped back and then ran forward, covering all 30-yards on the quarterback draw that gave his team the 21-20 advantage and set up the big fourth quarter for the Chargers.

Bullitt East had the touchdown run by Payne at the seven-minute mark and Kendrick opted for the two-point conversion attempt but the completion to Jewell was stopped just short of the goal line.

Following the touchdown three minutes later, Hughes came in and kicked the extra point to account for the final score.

If there is an area that Kendrick still believes needs work it is his team’s play in the ‘red zone’. Part of that might be that Hughes is such a consistent kicker in that area that the coach will count on him instead of being more daring or going for it on fourth down.

“We absolutely need to clean that up,” the coach said. “For a spread offensive team like us, that is the hardest place to move the ball. We just need to clean some things up when we do get down in that area.”

Bullitt East is also not quite as balanced at this point in the season as Kendrick would like. Egan threw for 249 yards in this win while the running game accounted for only 119 yards. Egan completed 23 of his 31 passes with three touchdowns and no inter-

ceptions. He was sacked one time.

Jewell was Egan’s favorite target with ten receptions for 89 yards. Pope had seven catches for 114 yards and the two scores.

On the ground, Brayden Carby had 11 carries for 55 yards while Payne had 17 runs for 40 yards and a touchdown.

Hughes kicked the two field goals and converted all three of his extra point attempts.

Evan Clan was the leading tackler for the Chargers with seven total stops while both Tanner Hobbs and Camren Coveyow had six total tackles.

Franklin County had 222 yards through the air as Barrett was 14 of 24 for 180 yards before he left the game. The top target for the home team was Aaron Jones with seven receptions for 109 yards.

The Flyers had 124 yards on the ground led by Barrett’s 11 carries for 74 yards and two scores.

Next Game: Bullitt East will be at home for one of only four times in the regular season when they host North Bullitt on Friday. The Eagles have started the season 0-2 with a narrow loss to Lincoln County and then a blow-out loss to North Oldham this past Friday on the road.

Bullitt East has won nine of the last 10 meetings with their county rivals. The lone setback was the incredible 2020 contest that the Eagles won 60-59 in Mount Washington.

Game time on Friday is set for 7:30 p.m. at Mike Egan Field.

EAGLES

FROM **PAGE B5**

Vazquez who scored on the first two free kicks. Moments later the green and gold kept scoring as Jake Norris and David Rodriguez found the back of the net.

But then Bullitt Central settled down and got back in the contest. Over the next 30 minutes, the Cougars got goals from Nolan Thompson and Sam Wright (on another free kick) to get within 4-2 at halftime.

The game got even closer when Jack Utley scored early in the second half to pull the Cougars within a single goal. However, that was as close as Bullitt Central could get. The North Bullitt goalie did not stop any shots in the game as North Bullitt controlled the ball for much of the contest in the Cougars’ end of the field.

“We were feeling really good and pressing them,” Rayburn said of the 4-3 sec-

tion of the game. “Then they had a long ball. I thought we made a good play on it, but he called it a penalty and they scored on that kick.”

With that edge, North Bullitt added a pair of goal from Vazquez in the middle of the second half to get some breathing room. Bullitt Central did get a goal from Declan Flaherty to keep the match close, but they could not generate enough offense.

“It was not our best week,” Rayburn said. “We’re not giving up good goals. It is bad luck and bad losses. It is tough.”

The match against Bullitt Central was the only one that the Eagles played last week. The team has played just three matches in three weeks and with the heat this week, might be limited against this week.

Still, the Eagles have a 3-0 record. The green and gold are scheduled to go right back into the district wars on Thursday with a trip to Mount Washington

to battle Bullitt East. That match is set for a 7:30 p.m. start time for the varsity match.

Bullitt Central’s record fell to 2-5-1 with the setback. The Cougars had a district match with Southern on Tuesday and will then take a week off before hosting Moore on Tuesday at 7:45 p.m.

Bullitt East

The Chargers picked up a very important 23rd District win on Tuesday of last week as they traveled into Jefferson County and defeated Southern 4-3. The win came on penalty kicks after the extra time was played.

That was part of a 2-0 week for the Chargers. On

Thursday, the team played a match at the Mount Washington Sports Complex and defeated the Christian Educational Consortium by a 2-1 score.

Bullitt East has not posted any stats up to this point in the season.

The Chargers entered this week with a 4-2 record. The two losses have come

by a combined three goals. Coach Wil Elder’s teams has played a trio of one-goal games so far this season.

Bullitt East had a game earlier this week before the showdown match with North Bullitt on Thursday. That match will be played on the high school’s football field with a start time for the varsity match at 7:30 p.m.



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