

## ‘THRILLER ... IN THE NIGHT’

### Bears OT win against Crockett clinches playoff spot

Lloyd Cook  
Sports Editor

CROCKETT — On the Friday night before Halloween, and with the Golden Girls drill team doing Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” at halftime — the Brownsboro Bears presented their own version of the aptly named (for this night) song.

The Bears staved off an overtime, 2-point conversion attempt by the Crockett Bulldogs, to earn a 41-40 win and lock-up a playoff spot.

Brownsboro had been up 34-26 in regulation, after running back Jon Jon Thompson’s 54-yard touchdown run with 7:07 left in the game.

But Crockett quarterback Napoleon Dennis engineered a drive in the final minute that ended with a 5-yard touchdown pass with one second on the clock. A 2-point conversion attempt was successful, sending the game into overtime.

The drive came after the previous Crockett drive ended in a fumble at the Brownsboro 2-yard line.

“On a night when the field was horrible, for there to be only two turnovers — one for each team — was amazing,” Bears head coach John Settle said Monday. “It was fortunate that we got that turnover when we did (late in the fourth quarter).”

“Unfortunately, we couldn’t run out the clock ... big games usually aren’t won, they’re lost. We could have iced it then and we wouldn’t have had the overtime.”

In the one overtime period, Crockett won the toss and elected to start on de-

fense.

“Generally you want to play defense first (in overtime),” Settle said. “That way, you know what you have to do when you get the ball.”

A 16-yard scramble by Bears quarterback Zack Bailey put the ball at the Bulldogs 9-yard line with a first-and-goal.

Senior running back Cameron Warren carried the ball twice from that point, scoring on the second carry from three yards out. Jose Mendez added the extra point that would prove to be the difference as the Bears went up 41-34 at that point.

The Bulldogs ran three plays, all passes, in their possession — two completions sandwiched around an incomple-

Both completions had Dennis hitting wideout Dominique Wheeler. The first was for 13 yards and the second gave the Bulldogs a touchdown from 12 yards out.

Bulldogs head coach Paul Parsons decided to for the 2-point conversion and the win right then.

Dennis darted to the middle of the line, only to be met by Justin McClesky, Ryan Owens and Dillon Croley, Settle noted.

Down just short of the goal line, the try failed and the Bears defensive unit erupted, knowing they had won.

It was a win that came after Brownsboro had fallen behind early. Crockett opened up with two first quarter touchdowns and a 13-0 lead before the Bears got untracked.

With just over five minutes left in that first quarter, Brownsboro engineered an



Lloyd Cook Photo

Bears wide receiver Ryan Cawthon (5) takes a pass reception down the field in the first half of Brownsboro’s 41-40 overtime when against the Crockett Belldogs Friday.

11-play, 69 yard drive. Quarterback Ryan Owen hit wideout Deondre Taylor for 35 yards in the middle of the drive to spark the offensive effort.

Five plays later, Warren plunged in from one-yard out to trim Crockett’s lead to 13-6.

With 4:17 left in the first half, the Bears tied the game up.

It was a drive that ate up six minutes and six seconds of clock time, covered 71 yards, and took 14 plays.

Bailey scored from a yard out on a quarterback sneak and Mendez added the extra point for the tie.

Dennis scored from 33 yards out to put Crockett back up by seven points just 15 seconds later, but



Lloyd Cook Photo

Members of the Golden Girls drill team performed their version of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” video during Friday’s halftime — appropriate given the ‘thriller’ ending to the District 20AAA football game.

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Lloyd Cook Photo

The Brownsboro Bearettes celebrate after a win over the Fairfield Lady Eagles Saturday. The win means the Bearettes represent District 20AAA in the playoffs as its first place team and gives Brownsboro a bye in the first round.

### Bearettes get first round playoff bye with Saturday win

Lloyd Cook  
Sports Editor

CORSICANA — A Saturday match win earned the Brownsboro Bearettes the right to represent District 20AAA as the district’s first place team in the playoffs.

It also earned the Bearettes a first round bye in the playoffs.

The Bearettes went down one game early in the best 3-out-of-5 match, as the Fairfield Lady Eagles took Game 1, 25-18.

But Brownsboro didn’t fold,

winning the next three games to take the match.

They opened game two on a 3-0 run on Chelsea Chambers serve. But Fairfield fought back, eventually tying the game at 5.

On Kaycee Wood’s serve, the Bearettes added two consecutive points after a service change point to go back up by three.

Later, up 11-7, the Bearettes ran off three more points on Shelbi Holt’s serve — as middle blocker Hillary Shaffer posted two blocks at the net — to go up 14-7.

Fairfield drew close later, at 21-19, but the Bearettes again used Holt’s serve, and two Shaffer blocks, to close out the game at 25-19 after the service change.

Game Three was similar ... close early, then with the Bearettes opening up a lead and holding on.

Brownsboro went out to a 7-2 lead early, in part because of a four-point run on Caitlin Collin serve.

Fairfield closed it to 19-18

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### Rambling on ... as usual

#### Coming up with something new ain’t easy

Some weeks, like this one, I just don’t have a clue.

As in, what to write as a subject for a sports column. I probably shouldn’t admit that, but that’s the way that it is.

So, when you see one of those “multi-topic separated by the three black dots on their own lines” columns, then you’ll know.

Like this week.

... I think I’ve done this topic, but it bears repeating.

Brett Favre beat the Packers, for the second time this season, last weekend ... but in Green Bay in his first return there since he ended a 16-year Packer career.

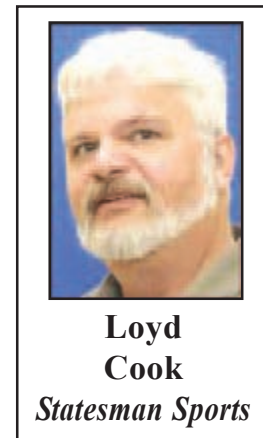
I see the reasons why the Packers did what they did to Favre, telling him “yes, you can come out of retirement ... but you’re going to be a back-up here.”

After all, Favre had left them dangling in the off-season for three years, making the Packers wait before letting them know if he was coming back or retiring. And, given his advancing age as an athlete, they had to make decisions about what to do at the quarterback position.

I understand all that.

But ...

I still say Favre has the right to play ball as long as someone



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will let him suit up and he shouldn’t take heat for playing for someone other than Green Bay. That’s like telling a bank teller they can only work for Bank of America and never work for Chase.

Besides, this old guy thinks it’s cool that the aging, 40-year-old athlete putting in two good years (so far) after leaving his old team has to be pretty sweet, personally, for him.

And I don’t begrudge that to him a bit.

... The World Series between the Yankees and the Phillies ain’t half bad.

I am getting tired of the announcers, though. Don’t get me wrong, I’m a big Joe Buck fan. Gotta be pretty tough to be following in the footsteps of his famous daddy.

Sometimes, it seems to me, there’s just too much of the announcers making allowances for coaches or the officials, or the managers.

Although I do think that Joe Giraldi, manager of the Yankees, will be considered a genius if he wins The Series or an “over manager” if he loses.

And that’s a lot like a quarterback in football — too much credit for the win, too much blame for the loss.

I miss Tom Brookshire (Pat Summerall’s initial NFL broadcasting partner on CBS telecasts) a lot. He would actually come out and give an opinion that might not be what the NFL wanted him to give ... and he lasted a few years in the business.

Until Sumerall moved over to Fox and teamed up with John Madden. Suddenly, Brookshire was no longer in sight.

And you very rarely hear that kind of announcer in any sport any more, either.

Guess it’s a requirement to “sell out” in order to do a lot of jobs, nowadays.

... And, finally, going back to another subject I covered a couple of months ago ... the Rangers.

They did the usual, they slowly faded (or at least, didn’t keep up) late in the season. My enjoyment at the lengthy stay in first place (for them) didn’t get to last until the playoffs.

But, at least, this past season’s team actually looked like one put together with a little thought.