

SPORTS

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All good things must come to an end and, 'Why this job?'

And now it's over, but it was a nice ride.

After the clock ran out Saturday at Corsicana's Tiger Stadium, and the Bears football season was over, I found myself in a strange situation.

I think I was reacting like a lot of the players, coaches, cheerleaders, band members, Golden Girls, friends, family and fans.

I wasn't ready for it to be over.

It's been awhile since I've dedicated my Friday nights



Loyd Cook
Statesman Sports

to following a football team. And, this may sound strange, but I got my start in this business because of a high school football team.

My son was something of a jock. One of those kids that wasn't really a star at anything, but was a pretty solid, all-round athlete. It really didn't matter what the sport was, at some point he played it. And some sports he played every season.

His freshman year of high school, Kerens decided to

reactivate its athletic booster club after it had been inactive for a few years. My late wife and I joined, just trying to be involved parents.

First meeting was set just a few days before the third football game of that, the 1992, football season. During the meeting the head coach asked for a volunteer to do stats on game night, so he could free up a coach he had assigned to the task.

I volunteered. Hey, I'm kind of a numbers freak so

to speak.

Next, the coach asked for someone to write up a small article about the game from Friday night and turn it in to the *Kerens Tribune* — which didn't have much in the way of sports coverage in those days.

I volunteered. And that's how I got into the newspaper business.

For the entire '92 football season, I covered the

Bobcats ... then, without anyone asking (I'd caught the bug, I guess), I started turning in articles on some of the basketball games.

I was doing all this for free, just as a hobby, I guess.

Come early January, and the guy that owned the paper left a message with my wife.

I came home from the first day at a new job, one that I had already figured out that I didn't like and was probably

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END OF THE LINE



Loyd Cook Photo

Bears wide receiver Austin Adair (12) dives over the goal line, completing a 40-yard touchdown play in the third quarter of Brownsboro's 30-14 loss to Lorena in the first round of the playoffs Friday in Corsicana.

Bears toppled in bi-district playoff round

Loyd Cook
Sports Editor

CORSICANA — The comeback kids of Brownsboro High couldn't overcome a second quarter, offensive onslaught by the Lorena Leopards in the first round of the football playoffs Saturday.

Lorena (8-3) scored 30 points in that second quarter, taking a 23-point lead into halftime, a lead Brownsboro (8-2) was unable to come back from.

It could have been a case of Lorena's size up and down its lineup.

"We knew they were going to be a physical team coming in," Bears head

coach John Settle said. "And that we'd have a hard time holding up in there."

"But, other than the one quarter there, we did fine." Brownsboro shutout Lorena in the first, third and fourth quarters.

Leopard running back Evan Ward battered the Bears the entire game, carrying the ball 34 times for 183 and scored all four of Lorena's second quarter touchdowns.

To complicate matters, the Bears had two, first-half turnovers — an interception and a fumble — on their way to four total turnovers for the game.

"That was the name of the game," Settle said. "We

havn't turned the ball over more than one time in any game all season. Any time we got momentum, (a turnover) just killed it ... every time we tried to come back."

Down 24, the Bears were able to crack the scoreboard when quarterback Zach Bailey hit wide receiver Cody Strickland on a 78-yard scoring strike down the middle of the field with 1:03 left in the first half.

With Jose Mendez's extra point, Brownsboro was down 24-7. Lorena took only 51 seconds to reply, moving 62 yards on seven plays with Ward carrying four times for 36 yards on the drive. The

Leopards were up 30-7 at intermission.

On its second possession of the third quarter, the Bears struck again.

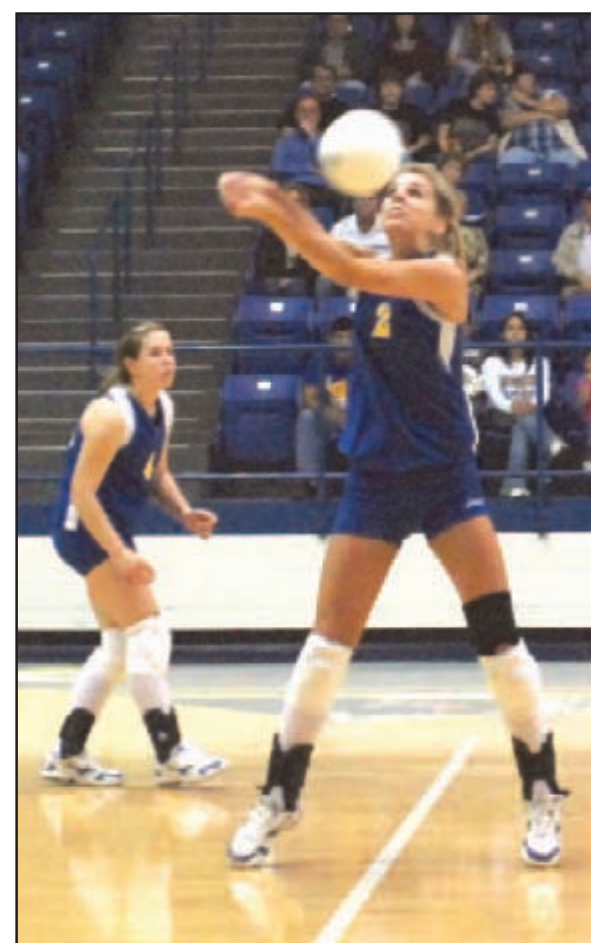
Starting at their own 47, the Bears took only five plays to score, capping off the drive with a 40-yard pass from Ryan Owens to Austin Adair. Mendez again made the kick and the score was cut to 30-14.

But that would be all of the scoring in the game.

Brownsboro killed one its fourth quarter drives with a fumble near midfield.

Midway through the final period, Bears special teams blocked a Lorena punt and

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Loyd Cook Photo

Hillary Shaffer (2) was named District 20AAA's Most Valuable Player by district coaches for 2009.

Bearettes at the top of District 20AAA's All-District honors

Loyd Cook
Sports Editor

The success of a 32-win season will bring with it much deserved recognition.

For the Brownsboro Bearettes volleyball team, it showed in the players honored for their play during the 2009 season that finished with a co-championship in District 20AAA and a trip to the playoffs.

Brownsboro (32-7 on the season) saw the team take two of the five "superlative" honors, plus place two on the first-

team and two on the second team All-District list, released this week by Bearettes head coach Becky Daughtry.

Junior Hillary Shaffer was named as District 20AAA's Most Valuable Player, while senior Shelbi Holt was tapped as the district's Defensive Player of the Year.

"I think it's an honor for them," Daughtry said of the Bearettes duo. "It really solidifies why our record was what it was. To have two of the five 'superlatives' awards, it's a pretty good deal."

Amye Scarborough and Chelsea Chambers were

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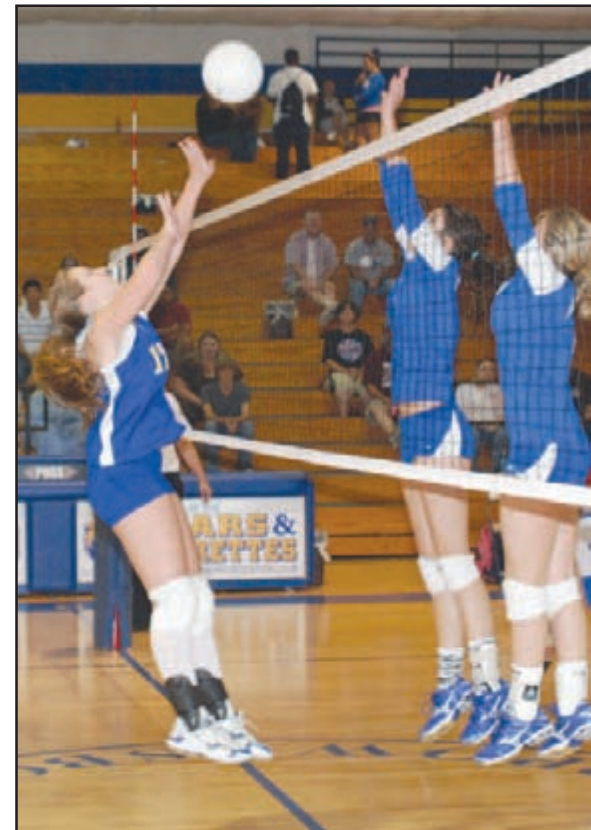
Loyd Cook Photo

Bears wide receiver Cody Strickland sprints for the end zone, part of a 78-yard touchdown pass delivered by quarterback Zach Davis in the second quarter. Brownsboro lost the first round playoff game, 30-14.



Loyd Cook Photo

Bears quarterback Ryan Owens (7) runs for a short gain during Brownsboro's playoff game Saturday in Corsicana. Lorena defeated Brownsboro, 30-14.



Loyd Cook Photo

Shelbi Holt (12, far left) was named District 20AAA's Defensive Player of the year for 2009.