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## Bell Beats Bronson 22 to 12 in varsity football



**This is a view of the Bronson Eagles Varsity Football Team entering John Rutledge Field as seen from the press box in Bronson on Friday evening (Aug. 26).**

**Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 27, 2016 @ 11:07 p.m.**

**BRONSON** -- The Bell Bulldogs beat the Bronson Eagles 22-12 in Bronson on Friday night (Aug. 26) in the first regular season game for both teams.

Bell brought an impressive traveling band as well as cheerleaders to inspire the visiting team, and there were many Gilchrist County fans who drove to watch the game too.



**John Meeks is the voice of the Bronson Eagles Varsity Football Team and he enjoys announcing the game from start to end.**

The visitors from Gilchrist County had the team with the first offense. They went to fourth down and rather than punting, it was senior Jonathan Zuniga (#7) who scored the first, first

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down of the night.

The Bulldogs continued their progress toward the goal until wide receiver – senior Chris Steingraber (#1) was the first to run across a goal line with a football at John Rutledge Field with 5:03 remaining in the first quarter that night; however, that would-be touchdown was called back due to a penalty.



**Bronson Middle High School Principal Gary Masters**

Bulldog quarterback Jackson Morgan (#12), a junior, wrapped up the first quarter with zero points for the visitors.

On its first offense, the team of Bronson Eagles with quarterback Caleb Chemin (#20)

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directing them progressed down to the midpoint in the field. It was a Chemin pass to Glenn Cooper (#3) that brought the first points to light the scoreboard with 2:44 remaining in the first quarter.

An attempted conversion pass to Christian Kahn (#32) of the Bronson Eagles was unsuccessful for Bronson but the home team ended the first quarter leading 6-0.

By the very end of the game though, it was the Bell Bulldogs who went home with a glorious 22-12 victory as the Bronson Eagles started their season with a loss.

Coaches for the varsity Bulldogs are: Head Varsity Football Coach Joey Whittington, and assistant coaches Rick Carnley, Jason Johnson, Mark Lundy, Mike Moore, Kepa Sarduy, Mike Simpson, James Slayton, Troy Terry and Bruce Thomas.

Coaches for the varsity Eagles are Head Varsity Football Coach Curtis Stacy and assistant coaches Bruce Greenlee, Roger Sibbald, Rod Thomas, Jose Thomas, Jim Roundtree and Brian Simpkins.



**Bronson Head Varsity Football Coach Curtis Stacy**

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**Bronson FFA member Justin Strickland sells boiled peanuts to former Bronson Mayor Franklin Schuler as Cathleen Strickland, another FFA member and his sister, assists.**

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**The Bronson Middle High School Honor Guard of the Army Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps (from left) Sydnee Duff-Conway (rifleman for the national flag), Alexis Sutherland (American flag bearer), Adam Sweat (Florida flag bearer) and Thomas Quatararo (rifleman for the state flag) prepare to enter the field. They were under the direction of Williston Middle High School's faculty member (ret.) United States Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daryl Richardson. The two high schools (WMHS and BMHS) work together to provide an AJROTC program.**



**Bell Middle High School Band Director Chris Dunn is in his sixth year as he stands here with the BMHS Purple Powerhouse Marching Band. The band was extremely accommodating to help provide this photo opportunity before the start of the**

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game, even donning their coats as the early evening sun beat down on the visitors from Gilchrist County. This band has boosters, too, including at least one grandmother who helps with uniform inspections.



Part of the Bell High School Purple Powerhouse Marching Band nears completion of preparation for a quick, unanticipated request for a photo.



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**Bronson Middle High School Band Director Michelle Barber stands with her students just before the start of the game Friday night. The Bronson band was the first to perform as they opened with the Star-Spangled Banner.**

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**Some of the Bell Middle High School Cheerleading Team provides a photo opportunity before the start of the game.**

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**The Bronson Middle High School Varsity Cheerleaders take one moment out just before the end of the first quarter provide a photo opportunity. These girls are under the direction of Cheerleader Coach Katie Parks. The coach may send their names later via email, and then this story will be updated with that.**

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