

HardisonInk.com

Chiefland wins hard fought Dixie County homecoming game



The Dixie County Bear football team bursts through its homecoming banner on Friday evening (Sept. 21).

Story and Photos

By Terry Witt © Sept. 22, 2018 at 3:38 p.m.

Senior Reporter

CROSS CITY -- Chiefland defeated Dixie County 27-20 at the Bears' homecoming game Friday night (Sept. 21) in a nail-biter.

Mareena Johnson is crowned 2018 Dixie County Middle High School homecoming queen by Peyton Smith, last year's queen.



HardisonInk.com



The Dixie County homecoming court is shown with Queen Mareena Johnson. From the left are Breanna Berry, Lily Doxtater, Idalis Vasquez, Homecoming Queen Mareena Johnson, Chelsey Lord, Cierra Johnson and Jordan Butler.



Chiefland runner Kirk Williams follows lead blocker Hunter Barrand on the opening play of the game.

HardisonInk.com



Chiefland quarterback Ty Corbin looks downfield for receivers as Dixie's Paras Clines applies pressure.



Dixie quarterback Tyler Back escapes the tackle of diving Chiefland defender Sheppard Dede, but seconds later he was leveled when he fired a pass into the end zone.

HardisonInk.com



Chiefland's Wyatt Hammond pushes to the one-yard line in crowded quarters.



Dixie quarterback Tyler Back waits for runner Carlo Williams to arrive for the sweep.

HardisonInk.com

The game came down to a game-saving sack by Chiefland's Sheppard Dede as Dixie quarterback Tyler Back scrambled along the Indian goal line looking for an open receiver with no time left on the clock.

Back was pulled down from behind as he cocked his arm to throw.

Game over.

High school football games don't get much closer, although the Dixie County Bears had lost the previous week by one point at the last scoring play of that night.

On Friday night (Sept. 21), two talented teams battered each other for four quarters. It came down to a final play with the clock at double zeroes.

The Indians came out top.

"They were who we thought they were, and that's a really good team and we were who we thought we were, and that's a really good football team," Chiefland Head Varsity Football Coach Adam Gore said. "I'm happy for the kids, I'm happy for the community; more than anything, I'm happy for the kids for pouring their heart into the program."

The Chiefland Indians are 5-0 for the varsity football season. the Dixie County Bears are 3-2.

Gore said the game plan was to bottle up the Bears most talented runner, Carlo Williams and force Dixie County to beat Chiefland with the rest of the team.

"We had to make them get out of what they do and pass it more. It really played into what our defense is made to do, which is to play against great teams and get after the quarterback in the process," Gore said.

Gore said Chiefland is accustomed to being invited to the homecoming of opponents. The team thrives on the idea of being a homecoming opponent. They like to prove doubters wrong.

Chiefland didn't throw a lot of passes during the game, but they threw enough to keep Dixie County honest.

When Chiefland mounted its second drive of the night, Indian quarterback Ty Corbin tossed a 50-yard pass to Amonte' Young. The pass set up a two-yard scamper by Corbin for the first score of the night. The extra point was good with 4:31 left in the first quarter.

Chiefland expanded its lead with 3:44 left in the first quarter when Corbin accelerated around left end and used his speed to score on an 80 yard touchdown. A miscommunication on the extra point led to a miss. The score was 13-0 going into the half.

Dixie County set up its first touchdown of the night when Williams took the opening kickoff of the second half 60 yards to the Chiefland 20. He scored soon after on a two-yard run. The extra point was good. The score was 13-7 with 10:33 left in the third quarter.

Not to be outdone, Chiefland drove from its own 38 on its next offensive series and scored on a short run by Jarrett Jerrels with 4:31 left in the third period. The extra point was good, leaving the score 20-7.

Dixie County returned fire when Fitzgerald Warren scored from a yard out with 9:54 left in the game. The extra point was good. The score was 20-14.

The Indians expanded their lead when Corbin scored on a 33-yard touchdown with 1:59 left in the fourth. The Chiefland quarterback zigzagged as he ran across the field ducking tacklers on his way to the end zone. The extra point was good. The score was

HardisonInk.com

27-14.

Dixie County refused to quit.

On the opening play after the kickoff, Back heaved a pass from the Dixie 46 to Derrick Charboneau at the Chiefland 9. Three plays later Warren scored from a yard out with 16.6 seconds left on the clock. The extra point failed. The score was 27-20.

Everyone in the stadium knew an onside kick was coming. Chiefland puts its “hands team” close to the ball. The Dixie County onside kick took one bounce and fell into the hands of the Bears’ Kyler McCaskill.

Dixie County was back in business.

Back hit Williams with a pass on the Chiefland three-yard line with 6.5 seconds left, but his second pass was deflected by the Indians in the end zone.

Back’s third and final passing attempt ended when he was sacked by Dede.