

HardisonInk.com

Bell defeats Trenton 14-12



Bell's Colton Spears finds running space around right end in the first quarter.

Story and Photos By Terry Witt, Senior Reporter

© Oct. 13, 2018 at 4:38 p.m.

TRENTON- Bell High School won its first varsity football game in a 10-year span of games against rival Trenton High School Friday night (Oct. 12) when a 20-yard field goal attempt by the Tigers soared to the right, with eight seconds left on the clock.



Bell Bulldog quarterback Mitchell Moore shows good speed as he prepares to duck through a hole in the Trenton Tigers' defense for Bell's second touchdown of the night.

HardisonInk.com



Trenton cornerback Dylan James steps in front of a pass intended for Bell's Wyatt Thompson to make an interception.

Trenton quarterback Tyrese Jackson looks downfield but can't find any blockers or receivers. He was tackled by the Bell defense on a critical fourth quarter play.



HardisonInk.com



Bell players celebrate their victory by locking arms as the Bulldog Band plays the school song.

Bell quarterback Mitchell Moore took a knee and ran out the clock, securing the Bulldogs' 14-12 win on Trenton's home field. Bell overcame a 12-0 deficit from the first quarter to win the bruising game.

Head Varsity Football Coach Joey Whittington said defense was a critical part of the win. He said the team focused in practices during the week on playing better defense. He said the team learned it could play great defense. He hopes the experiences carries through for the rest of the season.

"We bent but we didn't break so hats off to the defense," Coach Whittington said. "The offense took advantage when we had good field position. It wasn't a game offensively for us but we hit our spots when we needed to. Luckily it was enough to win."

Whittington commended Trenton for also playing great defense. He said the Bulldogs knew going into the game that the Tigers had a respectable defensive line.

"Hats off to Trenton; they played great defense. We knew the D-line was pretty good. Luckily, we had enough to pull it out," Whittington said.

Everyone in the stadium knew the game was going to come down to the final seconds. It was that kind of game. Both teams ran the ball with some success, but the warfare on the line subjected runners to bone-crunching hits.

With four minutes left in the game, both defenses were digging in for the final battle. Bell was clinging to a two-point lead. Trenton knew time was running out.

Bell took over on its own 30 and marched down the field, only to be stopped by the Tiger defense. The Bulldogs punted. Trenton took over at its own 30. The Tigers made

HardisonInk.com

some progress toward their goal, but were stopped deep in Bulldog territory.

There was 2:07 left in the game.

The Bulldogs couldn't move the ball on offense. Bell's punt was blocked. Trenton took over at the Bell 10-yard line with 8.8 seconds left on the clock. Trenton had time for one play on offense. The Tigers were out of time outs.

Trenton Head Varsity Football Coach Benjamin Jaqmein called on Tiger kicker Preston Blankenship to win the game with a 20-yard field goal. Blankenship appeared to execute the kick with perfect form, keeping his head down and his eyes glued to the ball. But the ball sailed right.

In the early part of the first quarter, it looked like Trenton might blow the Bulldogs off the field.

Trenton drove from the Bell 39 to the Bulldog 10-yard line before Jordan Fulmer blasted through the center of the Bulldog line for a score. The two-point conversion failed with 6:05 left in the first quarter.

The Tigers got on the board again when a Bulldog pass was intercepted by Dylan Thomas at the Trenton 20-yard line. The Tigers converted the turnover into points on the next offensive series.

Fulmer found daylight on the left side of the Bulldog defense and ran 80 yards for a touchdown. The two-point conversion failed, giving Trenton a 12-0 lead with 2:39 left in the first quarter.

But Trenton wouldn't score again for the remainder of the game.

Late in the second quarter, Bell drove from the Trenton 45 to the Tiger eight-yard line. Blake Carpenter ran through a hole on the left side of the Tiger defense for a score with 3:29 left in the half.

The score was 12-6 at the half.

In the third quarter, Bell converted on a fumble recovery at the Trenton 30-yard line into a touchdown minutes later. An interference penalty on a Bulldog pass moved the ball to the Tiger 15.

With 8:34 left in the third, Moore ran behind a wall of Bulldog blockers to his right. He sidestepped a tackle and ran untouched into the end zone.

Colton Spears ran for the two-point conversion but the points were taken away on a holding call. On the replay, Moore rolled right and found receiver Brandon Ovwigho in the end zone for the two-point conversion.

Bell led 14-12.

It became a final score.