

Week 1---Champlin Park

What a great first game! Two physical football teams battled all the way to the end of the game. It was a great atmosphere and winning sure does feel good. Our kids have put in a lot of time in the off-season to be physically prepared and it was nice to see our conditioning pay dividends in the 4th quarter. A lot of ups and downs and big plays, CR just ended up making a couple more big plays than Champlin Park.

Defensively we played well but tackled poorly. Our pursuit was good but we constantly overran the ball carrier and did not break down to make a tackle. We were able to intercept two passes and cause one fumble that we did not recover. Our defense gave up two 4th down conversions during the game as well as giving up 17 yards on 3rd and 18, resulting in one of the 4th downs Champlin converted. We only gave up two touchdowns and Champlin had a short field to work with on a couple of their drives.

Special teams overall was solid. Turnovers and special teams were a main focus for the week. They can make or break a team, especially early in the year. Our kickoff team gave up a touchdown and in general did not perform well. The coaching staff has made some schematic and personnel adjustments to get more speed on the field. We hit a huge field goal before the end of the first half and did an average job on protecting the kicker on both the field goal and punt teams. The real disappointment was that we had to waste 2 timeouts on extra points/2 point conversion situations. One was a players fault and one was my fault. We have to have better organization and save those timeouts!

Offensively we played well but we had some individuals make incredible plays to bail us out of bad situations. As the year progresses and defenses get more sound those bail out plays will not work out as well. The good news is that our offensive line (only 1 returning starter) did not give up a sack and were able, for the most part, to pick up Champlin's stunting and twisting defensive linemen.

We play Anoka this week and the player's know we will have to step our game up a notch each week. Anoka will be hungry to play us after last year's game. They have a lot of speed on offense and special teams and their defense is very aggressive to the ball. Turnovers and special teams will be incredibly important once again.

It should be a classic Northwester Suburban Conference football game.