

The Pueblo Chieftain

Your print and online news source for Southern Colorado

September 19, 2008

Colts defense stands tall in shutout



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/BRYAN KELSEN -- Wasson High School running back Tanner Hidrogo (center) is stopped by South defenders Josh Dome (left) and Devin Hart after a short gain during the first quarter Thursday night at Dutch Clark Stadium.

South remains undefeated with 35-0 whitewash of Wasson.

By TOM PURFIELD
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

South High School's defense not only brought the wood, it brought the metal, the thunder, the kitchen sink and anything else that could keep up with its lightning quickness.

"We have this slogan, 'bring the wood,' " Colts senior linebacker Josh Dome said. "We pride ourselves on hitting, wrapping up and getting all 11 players to the ball."

It was all on full display Thursday night as South blanked Wasson 35-0 in their Foothills League game at Dutch Clark Stadium. Longtime rivals for the league crown, the Colts have now hammered the Thunderbirds by a combined 83-0 the past two years.

The ferocity and suddenness with which South played defense rendered Wasson nearly helpless Thursday. A rare mix of quickness, physicality and football smarts put the Colts in the T-Birds' offensive backfield all night long.

"We said all year that we're going to hang our hat on our defense, and we have," South coach Mark

Haering said. "We have a blend of the physical play and quickness all around, and they like to hit, too. "We got a lot of pressure with our defensive line up front and our linebackers coming through real well. The quickness was pretty evident tonight."

Third-ranked South remained perfect on the season, 3-0 in Foothills League play and 4-0 overall, while Wasson dropped to 1-2 and 1-3.

As the Colts ran up a 21-0 halftime lead, they nearly pushed Wasson's offense the wrong way. The Thunderbirds had negative-4 yards rushing, one first down and two turnovers. Wasson finished with just 12 first-half yards.

South's defensive line was punishing Wasson at the snap, freeing the linebackers to fly into the backfield. Often, the Colts were all over running back Tanner Hidrogo or quarterback Zach Sanchez before the offensive play even began to take shape.

When Sanchez got the pass off, South's corners were solid in coverage or pressure caused him to misfire.

"We just get our gap, pick up the guy that's in front and everybody gets to the tackle," South defensive lineman John Garza said. "It just feels good. We play as a family."

Wasson began to move the ball in the second half and Hidrogo actually finished with 103 rushing yards, but South still allowed only 131 total yards in posting the shutout.

"They just get after it and are physical. Our kids didn't get after it tonight and, unfortunately, 35-yard is the result," veteran Wasson coach Harold Brown said. "The bottom line is, if we don't have kids up front who want to block and take a stand, anybody can come in there and whip on you."

While the Colts' defense claimed the spotlight, the offense was quietly stellar. Brody Lockett rushed for 144 yards on just 15 carries and got loose around left end three times on the first two possessions, scoring from 28 yards out on the third. After Lockett's two-point conversion, South had a 8-0 lead.

After forcing two punts and a turnover on downs, South constructed a 13-play, 67-yard drive capped by Kallen Baca's 2-yard touchdown run behind Calvin Baird to make it 14-0. The pressure then got to Sanchez, as he was intercepted by Aaron Bosley.

Ten plays and 56 yards later, the Colts converted the turnover on an easy touchdown run by Zack McGinn, thanks to a solid seal block by Jordan Ruiz, for the 21-0 halftime lead.

The defense took back over in the second half, scoring South's final two touchdowns. On Wasson's first play of the third quarter, Brandon Kliesen recovered Sanchez's fumble in the end zone. With 4:09 left in the quarter, Dome jumped a route, picked off Sanchez and raced 61 yards up the left sideline for the final tally.

"It wasn't just me, it was the whole defense," said Dome, who had two sacks and a slew of slobber-knocker hits. "Our secondary did a real good job on the pass and our defensive line got in there and created a few plays in the backfield."

South 35, Wasson 0

Wasson	0	0	0	0	-	0
South	8	13	14	0	-	35

SCORING

S-Brody Lockett 28 run (Lockett run)

S-Kallen Baca 2 run (run failed)

S-Zack McGinn 5 run (Brandon Kliesen kick)

S-Kliesen fumble recovery in end zone (Kliesen kick)

S-Josh Dome 61 interception return (Kliesen kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Wasson	South
First downs	8	14
Rushes-yards	35-108	45-242
Passing yards	28	47
Comp-Att-Int	4-18-3	4-6-0
Punts	5-38.6	2-42.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	5-1
Penalties-Yards	4-30	5-35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING-Wasson: Tanner Hidrogo 23-103, Zach Sanchez 8-(minus 20), Josh Shoemaker 4-25; **South:** Lockett 15-144, TD, Kameron Wilhite 9-17, McGinn 8-42, TD, Baca 9-35, TD, Nico Smith 4-4.

PASSING-Wasson: Sanchez 4-18-3, 28 yards; **South:** Wilhite 4-6-0, 47 yards.

RECEIVING-Wasson: Trevor Brown 2-16, Michael Herrera 1-0, Jamil Thorne 1-12; **South:** Kivon Cartwright 1-23, Lockett 1-3, Jordan Ruiz 2-21.