

Wildcats escape Lumberjacks, 34-27

ARCATA (Oct. 10) — No 4 ranked Central Washington had all it could handle in Humboldt State, coming from behind to claim a 34-27 win over the Lumberjacks in a Great Northwest Athletic Conference game played Saturday.

A blocked punt by Central's Tyler Cardin finally turned the tide early in the fourth quarter, helping the Wildcats recover from a 20-13 halftime deficit and take a 27-20 lead with 11 minutes, 56 seconds remaining. After Cardin's block, Linebacker Adam Bighill gathered up the ball on the Jacks' 2-yard line, and took it into the end zone.

Central Washington kept its season perfect at 7-0, improving to 2-0 in the GNAC. Humboldt State fell to 3-3 overall and 0-3 in league games.

"We expect to win, and we prepared to win," Humboldt State head coach Rob Smith said. "We're past the point where we show up just to feel good when we play against a quality team. We have to correct those mistakes that are costing us games we feel we should have won."

After gaining the lead, the Wildcats rode home on the legs of running back Randall Eldridge, who finished with 111 yards on 30 carries. Eldridge carried the ball nine consecutive plays on CWU's next drive after taking the lead, finishing it with a 3-yard run for touchdown that put the Wildcats up, 34-20.

HSU's second quarterback of the game, Chris Bolt, directed a 4-play, 40-yard drive, completing a 14-yard scoring pass to wideout Matt Smith to cut Central's lead to 34-27 with 3:36 remaining. The Wildcats kept the ball on the ground after recovering an onside kick, however, running out the clock to claim the win.

"Bolt gave us a nice spark, and Matt Devlin had a couple of big catches for us," Smith said. "It really came down to our defense spending too much time on the field. Time of possession was a big factor."

Central Washington had the ball 35:25 compared to HSU's 24:35, and posted 21 first downs to the Jacks' 13. The Jacks were nearly even with the Wildcats in total offense, however, gaining 291 yards to Central's 317.

Bolt completed 9-of-17 passes for 124 yards and two touchdowns, while starter Mike Proulx was 7-of-10 for 117 yards and a pair of TDs. Bolt was also the Jacks' leading rusher with 38 yards on eight carries.

Central Washington quarter back Ryan Robertson was 13-of-22 for 127 yards with one interception. Wide receiver Johnny Spevak had five catches with 45 yards and Eldridge had five for 51 yards receiving.

Humboldt State had indicated its upset intentions on its very first play from scrimmage, scoring on a 52-yard pass completion from Mike Proulx to Corey Stollmeyer. Central Washington countered with an 8-play, 69-yard drive that was stopped short of the end zone by the HSU defense, forcing a 21-yard Garrett Rolsma field goal that cut the Jacks' lead to 7-3.

Rolsma finished the first quarter with another field goal, this time connecting from 42 yards out. But Humboldt State opened the second quarter with an answer of its own, driving 65 yards in eight plays to take a 13-6 lead on Proulx's 10-yard pass to tight end Matt Devlin before a failed PAT kick.

The Wildcats drew even at 13-13 when Eldridge broke across from three yards out after Central had gained great field position on a fumbled punt. HSU immediately answered with a 5-play, 66-yard drive that concluded with Bolt's 38-yard touchdown pass to Devlin, moving HSU back in front, 20-13 at the half.

Central tied the game again on its first drive of the third quarter, moving the ball 59 yards on 12 plays. Key to the drive was a 19-yard completion from backup quarterback Cole Morgan to Spevak, and

Eldridge finished the march with a 1-yard touchdown carry.

Humboldt State is at home again Saturday, hosting Southern Oregon in Redwood Bowl for homecoming.

Central Washington	6	7	7	14	-	34
Humboldt State	7	13	0	7	--	27

HSU – Stollmeyer 52 pass from Proulx (Schierholt kick)

CWU – Rolsma 21 Field Goal

CWU – Rolsma 42 Field Goal

HSU – Devlin 10 pass from Proulx (Schierholt kick)

CWU – Eldridge 3 run (Rolsma kick)

HSU – Devlin 38 pass from Bolt (Schierholt kick)

CWU – Eldridge 1 run (Rolsma kick)

CWU – Bighill 2 blocked punt return (Rolsma kick)

CWU – Eldridge 3 run (Rolsma kick)

HSU – Smith 14 pass from Bolt(Schierholt kick)