

Strong showing for Storm defence



- Nathan Anderson Photo

PeeWee Storm quarterback Seth Taylor carries a man on his back to pick up an extra yard, Sept. 8.

nathan anderson

airdrie city view

Courage. Pride. Hard work. The PeeWee Storm got it all, Sept. 8. Everything, that is, but a win.

Airdrie's PeeWee football club lost its second consecutive league game 12-0 to the Calgary Mavericks. But head coach Thomas Rohl says he's far from worried at this point.

"The boys are playing fantastic for just their second game. They're just getting warmed up," said Rohl. "The boys are playing an aggressive brand of football. Our team is competitive, and the other teams know it. We're only going to get better."

The Storm and Mavericks battled to a scoreless tie in the first quarter, however the Mavs broke things open before half time. Calgary got a 50 yard touchdown run from Aaron Statz at the mid point of the second quarter, followed by a 30 yard run for a major by Nick Statz in the final minute. The Mavericks regained possession and was threatening again, but Airdrie's William Koerhuis recovered a late fumble to limit the damage.

In the second half the Storm defence brought down the thunder. Led by safeties Ryan Vanderhorst and Connor Boyd, the defence stalled the Mavs' up-the-gut running game and held Calgary scoreless.

"The Mavs are a good team and our defence forced them to change their offence," said Rohl. "Connor and Ryan have been the key players making it happen for us. We've also had great play from our linebackers, Marshall Burr, Clayton Van Dyk, James Wood and Chase Bywaters. Together, they are the core of our defence and give us something to build around."

The Storm offence, stymied for much of the game by the Mavs' swarming defence, finally seemed to click at the mid point of the fourth quarter. After

feeding the Mavs a steady stream of runs from halfback Nathaniel Cross, quarterback Seth Taylor chose to air one out to slotback Lucas Nelson. Nelson hauled it in and scampered 57 yards virtually untouched. However, the apparent touchdown was waved off due to a penalty. The Mavs' adjusted its defence, and held Taylor and the Storm in check for the game's remainder, preserving the 12-0 victory.

STORM NOTES:

- The PeeWee Storm also lost its first game of the season, 20-6 against the Colts on Sept. 6. Airdrie's lone major came from Cross, who ran 80 yards for the touchdown. "We played them really tough, especially considering it was our team's first live game of the year," said Rohl.
- The PeeWee Storm is now 0-2 with six league games remaining. Next up is a contest against the Cochrane Lions, Sept. 18. Game time is 6:30 p.m. at Calgary's Shouldice Park field S2.



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