

## SPORTS

# Storm ends season on top

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The Airdrie Storm is still on a roll, having preserved its undefeated season with a tie against the Cowboys and a win over the Hilltoppers.

The Cowboys game, played Oct. 5, wasn't a pretty one, said head coach Jeff Younger.

"This was definitely a game that could've

been, should've been won," Younger said.

"It was a very good game from a fan standpoint anyway, because it was a lot of back-and-forth (play)," he added.

The Storm fell behind right off the hop, throwing an interception which was returned for a touchdown. The Cowboys converted to opening the scoring at 8-0.

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Not to be outdone, the Storm rallied and took the ensuing kickoff back for a good return. A few plays later, Mike Antonius scored on a nine-yard TD run, which was converted by Jon Jennings.

Keeping in the spirit of the game, the Cowboys took their next series all the way down the field for yet another six points. With the convert, they took the lead 16-8.

Airdrie stormed back on the next series of downs, capping off a nine-play drive with a three-yard TD run by Jennings, who then converted.

The Storm couldn't keep up the pace, though, and the Cowboys took advantage of the lapse, turning a couple of long runs into a touchdown. With the convert, the Cowboys led 24-16 at the half.

In the second half, though, Airdrie began to play for keeps, putting together a six-play drive in the fourth, capped off with a five-yard scoring run by Jennings, who also converted to tie the game.

Younger said the game was a lesson for the Storm players.

"The guys realize there are some good teams in this league that are going to give us a hell of a good fight," he said.

On the offence, Jennings carried 18 times for 111 yards and two TDs. Antonius took the ball nine times for 56 yards and one touchdown and Travis Vollmann had three carries for 12 yards. B.J. Jagdath added a 37-yard reception.

Defensively, Steven Barker had a fumble recovery and Vollmann recovered a fumble off a kickoff. Jeff Hemmel-speck blocked a punt.

Last week's game, the final game of the regular season, pitted the Storm against the Hilltoppers.

The Storm came out on top 14-8, but the game was a close one, Younger said.

"This was not one of our better games," he said. "We just had too many breakdowns.

"Still, we did enough to win, and I guess that's the main thing."

The action started off fast and furious, with Jennings turning the Storm's first offensive play into a 63-yard run for a touchdown.

Jennings failed to convert, leaving the score 6-0.

"From there on in, it was a lot of give-and-take," Younger said.

"We had some breakdowns that basically stalled some drives," he said. "Defensively, we were giving up a little bit more than we deserved."

Some key plays by Storm players helped keep the Hilltoppers at bay.

Vollmann blocked a field goal attempt, which was recovered by Hemmel-speck. Vollmann also blocked a punt, which was picked up by Robin Chemelli.

The Storm's final score came midway through the third quarter.

A 20-yard pass from Rohl to Jennings set up a one-yard run by Antonius for the points. A Jennings conversion finished off the game tally.

The Storm ends the season in first place, with a 7-0-1 record.

The team's first playoff game is Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Shouldice Park against the Broncos, who come into post-season play with a 4-4-0 record.