

## Bears fall to Vikings in opener

By Christian Caple, Daily News staff writer

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There was no question at Bear Field last night who was going to win, especially after Coeur d'Alene scored three touchdowns against Moscow within a six-minute span at the end of the first quarter and beginning of the second.

The Vikings ended up winning 42-19, but what Moscow coach John Sheaff didn't know was whether his team would put up any kind of fight in the second half against the bigger, faster Vikings.

That's the one positive to take from the Bears' season-opening loss last night, because Moscow responded with three touchdowns in the second half.

"We challenged our guys," Sheaff said. "We had good effort in about the first four or five minutes of the game, and we got some air let out of us after a few big plays that they had. We challenged our kids not to give up and not to quit. They proved to us that they're not going to quit."

It would have been easy to, considering Coeur d'Alene took a 36-0 lead into halftime, outgaining Moscow 325-81 in a first half full of big plays for the visitors. Vikings quarterback Chad Chalich threw two scoring passes, and running back Zach Keiser bulled his way for 83 yards and two scores before halftime.

And they did it quickly. Coeur d'Alene's first score came on a 25-yard carry by Keiser just one play after a failed fake-punt attempt set the Vikings up deep in Bears territory.

Then again before the first quarter ended, Chalich led a five-play, 46-yard drive capped by a 30-yard touchdown pass to Jake Matheson. The drive took just 1:42, which seemed like an eternity compared to their next drive - if you can call it that - which consisted solely of a 45-yard strike to Matt Lambert that took all of 10 seconds.

"To be honest with you - I'm going to have to watch film - but I think we were a step away from making a few plays," Sheaff said. "If we are at that step and make those plays ... I'm not taking anything away from (Coeur d'Alene), but if we would have made a few of those plays, who knows?"

Sheaff will be left to wonder. Still, the fight his team showed late in the fourth quarter is worth something. The Bears finally got on the board with 1:26 remaining in the third quarter when Justin Parkins scored on a three-yard run after Bears quarterback Jake Helbling set it up with a 40-yard completion to receiver Roby Jung.

Parkins, who had 16 carries for 65 yards, found pay dirt again with 2:40 left in the game when he took a handoff to the left before cutting back against the grain and reversing fields, eventually covering 25

yards for the Bears' third and final score.

Helbling also scored on a nine-yard run on the previous possession, and a successful onside kick set up Parkins' 25-yarder.

"Justin Parkins is one of the toughest kids I think I've ever known," Sheaff said. "The kid has a motor that won't quit. He never wants to come off the field. I love that about the kid. He's a heck of a competitor, he really is."

Helbling also drew praise from his coach after completing 14-of-24 passes for 146 yards, and throwing two interceptions but generally looking comfortable running an offense that was much more run-heavy last season.

"Our receivers stepped up tonight and caught the football," Sheaff said. "And that's something in the past, we've been a run team, and teams kind of shut us down at times. I'm glad we were able to throw the football around a little tonight."

It won't get easier from here, as 2A state runner-up West Valley of Spokane visits next week.

There's plenty to work on until then.

"I think we had some good things, and we had some bad things," Sheaff said. "And definitely we need to shore up those bad things, and we need to improve upon the good things and make them great."

Coeur d'Alene.....16 20 6 0

Moscow.....0 0 7 12

First quarter

CDA - Keiser 25 run (Keiser run), 8:05

CDA - Matheson 30 pass from Chalich (Chalich run), 0:39

Second quarter

CDA - Lambert 45 pass from Chalich (kick fail), 10:34

CDA - Keiser 11 run (kick good), 8:14

CDA - Keiser 5 run (kick good), 4:55

Third quarter

CDA - Lambert 8 pass from Chalich (kick fail), 3:14

MOS - Parkins 3 run (kick good), 1:26

Fourth quarter

MOS - Helbling 9 run (kick fail), 3:39

MOS - Parkins 25 run (kick fail), 2:40

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING - Moscow, Parkins 16-65, Helbling 12-18, La. Brooks 3-14, Morgan 1 (-10), Lewis 1-4, Gessler 1-4. Coeur d'Alene, Keiser 14-108, Chalich 5-44, Harris 1-0, Dehaas 4-(-14), Comack 4-3

PASSING - Moscow, Helbling 14-24-2, Morgan 1-1, Coeur d'Alene, Chalich 11-20-1, Dehaas 0-1-0

RECEIVING - Moscow, Parkins 5-53, Jung 2-48 La. Brooks 4-27, Lo. Brooks 2-17, Lewis 1-9, Gessler 1-3, Coeur d'Alene, Matheson 4-92, Lambert 4-69, Watson 2-56, Turbin 1-10

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