

Bonnors Ferry shocks Moscow

The 4A Bears lose 14-7 to 3A Badgers

Posted: Saturday, October 1, 2011 12:00 am

The Moscow Bears appeared to have a warm-up scheduled against 3A Bonnors Ferry before facing the defending 5A state champion Coeur d'Alene.

Someone apparently forgot to tell Bonnors Ferry.

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Despite Moscow's Josh Helbling's 12-yard touchdown pass to Aaron Donaldson in the first quarter, the Badgers' tenacious defense led the way, picking off three passes en route to a 14-7 upset of the Bears.

Moscow (3-2, 0-0) seemed to lack the spark that has been apparent in all of its games this season.

Coach John Sheaff said it cost them.

"We came out flat and Bonnors Ferry had more energy than we did and we never recovered from it," Sheaff said.

Bonnors Ferry scored 14 unanswered points in the second half and Moscow was never able to find an offensive groove. The Badgers' three-man front was not something the Bears had seen in film all week in preparation for the contest and it gave Moscow's offensive line fits. The Bears were unable to run the ball effectively all night.

Quarterback Josh Helbling led the way with 24 yards on four carries, while Brady Braun and Hunter Redinger combined for just eight yards in a limited workload.

"They ran a different defense on us than we had seen in film. They had three men up front and normally we can adjust pretty well," Sheaff said. "They loaded up the box and were able to get pressure, and you know, hats off to them."

The Bears' passing game went nowhere as well. Helbling, frustrated by the constant pressure, began trying to make quick reads and forced a few passes.

"He was feeling some pressure, there's no doubt about that," Sheaff said. "You feel a little pressure and try to force things and that's what happens when you force it. The kids worked their tails off and they tried, but it just wasn't there ... It wasn't there."

Helbling finished the night 16-of-27 for 154 yards, one touchdown and three costly interceptions.

Moscow will try to refocus next week against the top 5A team in the state, Coeur d'Alene, which beat Bears' rival Sandpoint 88-12 two weeks ago.

Moscow 7 0 0 0 - 7

Bonnors Ferry 0 0 14 0 - 14

First Quarter

4:24 - Moscow, Josh Helbling 13-yard pass to Aaron Donaldson (Tommy Behre kick good)

3rd Quarter

10:33 - BF, Trocke 4-yard run (Trocke run)

1:24 - BF, Wilson 2-yard run (two-point failed)

Rushing: Josh Helbling 4-24, Brady Braun 1-5, Hunter Redinger 1-3

Passing: Josh Helbling 16-27-154-3-1

Receiving: Aaron Donaldson 6-73