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Arlington catches up to Plano East, wins in OT

By Randy Jennings

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Forget all the plays, good and bad, that took place in the first three and a half hours of the 2011 season opener for Plano East and Arlington.

For Arlington coach Scott Peach, the way his team performed in the clutch in the final moments of Friday night's 49-42 overtime victory over Plano East are an encouraging sign going forward.

"I thought our team grew up in overtime," Peach said. "Our quarterback made a great play to give us a lead and then our defense gave them absolutely nothing."

Colts quarterback Josh Greer opened overtime with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Parker to snap a 42-42 tie.

It was Greer's fourth touchdown pass of the evening.

Plano East failed to make a positive play in its four overtime snaps, its possession ending when quarterback Corey Wesley lost his balance trying to reverse field on fourth down.

"It was a long game, but we really stepped up and showed our true colors," said Greer, who started three games as a junior. "Our last drive in regulation and the play in overtime, that's what you want to see as a team."

The player on the receiving end, Parker, said he knew that he'd be open when he came to the line of scrimmage.

"I saw their safety roll down and I knew they didn't have anybody to cover me deep," said Parker. "The whole game was on me on that play. Everybody was counting on me."

Long forgotten, Parker said, was his fumble on the opening kickoff almost four hours earlier.

"That was at the very beginning of the game," Parker said. "You don't worry about that."

Just to make it to overtime, the Colts needed a touchdown and an extra point on the final play of regulation.

Running back Taverreon Dickerson delivered with a determined 3-yard touchdown run as time ran out.

"I knew it was the last play because I looked at the clock just before the snap and there was just seven seconds," Dickerson said. "My head was pounding from the hits I took earlier, but I didn't want to go home with my head hurting for nothing."

Two Plano East defenders were positioned outside, but Dickerson made a superb cut to his right and powered through a tackler and into the end zone.

Arlington's overtime-forcing drive covered 83 yards in 13 plays.

After going to intermission with a relatively tame score of 14-14, both teams uncovered big plays in the playbook in the third quarter. At one point, touchdowns were produced on the first play of three straight possessions, each by a player wearing No. 13 -- two by Dontha Robinson of Arlington on long pass receptions and one by Plano East's Tre Jones on a 61-yard double reverse.

Plano East fought back to take a 42-35 lead with 7:30 left in the game on a 78-yard kickoff return by Dante' Taylor.

"I was just trying to make a play that could help us win," Taylor said afterward. "I thought we had enough.

"It's bad to lose this, but we're going to come back."
