

Bruins clinch playoff berth

Bruins secure a spot in postseason play following 27-0 shut-out of district opponent Puckett Attendance Center



Photo by Bailey Miller/The Bear Facts

London Walker, No. 10, and Wyatt Davis, No. 75, celebrate a touchdown Walker scored in the 27-0 Bruin win over Puckett last week.

Sports Analysis by Joe Pearson

The Bruin football team has clinched a state playoff berth for the third straight year heading into the final regular season game tonight.

The Bruins dominated the Puckett Attendance Center Wolves 27-0 on Senior Night at Bill Raphael Field. And the seniors on the Bruin squad definitely put forth their best showing of the year thus far.

It was the Bruins' first shut out of an opponent since Sept. 22, 2017, when the Bruins defeated Union 35-0.

"The Friday night game was the most fun

I've ever had on Bill Raphael Field," said Tyler Brown, senior lineman. "The playoff berth was huge for team morale. It lights a fire under the team and gives us a will to keep on playing."

Senior quarterback Daniel Clarke connected for two touchdowns passes, one to senior tight end Steven Wolf and the other to senior wide receiver Kiland Harrison.

The team also had its best rushing effort of the year. Senior running back London Walker rushed for two touchdowns.

Chandler Thornhill, another senior running

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back, also rushed for more than 90 yards.

One of the biggest keys for the Bruins was the excellent play of the lineman. They dominated the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. Puckett rushed for less than 50 yards the whole night.

Thornhill, also the punter, played a huge role in special teams as well. With about a minute to go in the first half, Thornhill's punt pinned Puckett deep within their own 5 yard line, making it impossible for Puckett to try a long touchdown pass before the half ended.

Thornhill's punt was just one example of how the Bruins dominated the field-position battle. The Wolves got possession of the ball deep in their territory on every drive, with the exception of one fumble in the first half.

This gave the Bruin offense a short field, on which they

capitalized with four touchdowns.

The 27-0 win was the largest margin of victory for the Bruins all year, and it comes at the perfect time. Tonight, the Bruins will have to take on a hard-nosed 8-2 Pisgah team.

Pisgah features a run-based offense, centered around Noah Thweatt, the Dragons' quarterback.

The Bruin defense will need all the momentum they can get from the shut-out win against Puckett to take on the physical Pisgah offense.

"We'll have to play an excellent defensive game, but I think we're up to the task," said sophomore Josh Briscoe.

The offense will also have to build on its best game of the year.

The game Friday has huge implications for the playoffs, and Coach John Bond is sure to have the Bruins ready for the game tonight.