

Medina Valley @ Hondo Recap

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By Derek Duke Sep 14, 2018

Game Recap: Medina Valley Panthers at Hondo Owls

Barry Field in Hondo, Texas (Photo: Derek Duke)

Barry Field (Hondo, TX)- It's that time of year again where businesses shut down, fans put on their school colors and the Friday night lights are as big and bright as the state Texas. Texas high school football is back baby! In the San Antonio area there was no rivalry quite as big as the Medina Valley Panthers traveled to take on the Hondo Owls at Barry Field.



First Half

Much like the rainy weather outside, the Hondo Owl offense had their fair share of struggles. After, four straight three and outs, the Owls finally got their first first-down of the ball game midway through the second quarter on their fifth offensive drive. Unfortunately, it ended with a fumble on fourth down. The Owls were only able to get into Medina Valley territory twice out of seven total drives as the Medina Valley Panther defense swarmed to the football doing a nice job slowing the Owls down offensively.

As for the Panthers, it was a totally different story as they were able to score at will for the most part. After fumbling deep in Hondo territory to start their first drive, the Panthers scored on back to back drives thanks to fullback **James Gibson** on 13-yard touchdown run and a 48-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Alec Childs to halfback Logan Masters. After being up 14-0, the Panther offense did have a quick three and out, but they never looked back after that. Halfback Logan Masters scored his second touchdown of the first half but this time it was from a 68-yard touchdown run down the sideline. On the very

next drive, Medina Valley had a quick four play drive that was capped off by a Wesley Pardo 22-yard touchdown run. It was all Panthers in the first half as they led Hondo 27-0 at the break.

Second Half

The second half was much more competitive than the first half was as both teams were able to have some success on offense. The Panthers wasted no time throwing the football as they scored off a seven play 51-yard drive that resulted in a 4-yard touchdown run by Jacob Salas. After that the Owls finally found some success offensively with their own ten play drive, but it didn't result in any points as they turned the ball over on downs at the Panther 24-yard line. It didn't matter because the Owls got the ball right back in just one play due to a fumble by Medina Valley. In an oddly fashion, the Owls were able to capitalize off the turnover in by way of a crazy fumbled snap that was recovered by quarterback Brandon Garcia in the endzone. Hondo went for the two-point conversion and converted to put eight points on the board late in the third quarter.

Once again on the very next drive the Panthers coughed up the football deep in their own territory, but Hondo was only able to get a field goal out of it from 34 yards by Oswaldo Luna to cut the Panther lead to 34-11. Medina Valley answered right back with a touchdown of their own highlighted by a 34-yard pass from Charlie Mash to Garrett Legitt. Hondo fumbled a snap on their next possession and the game ended as the Panthers were able to bleed out the clock to go on to win 41-11 over their rivals.

Postgame

Medina Valley Head Coach Chris Soza addressing his team after a 41-11 victory over Hondo. (Photo: Derek Duke)

After the game, I caught up with Medina Valley Head Coach Chris Soza who was all smiles after the game.

On the win: *"Every game is big. The communities are very competitive, and rivals are rivals but for us it was our last tune up game before district. We wanted to see our kids play well and execute and that's what we saw tonight."*

On the weather: *"It drizzled all night and was raining but it's good for us. We got experience in this and got to play in it and we had a couple turnovers that were costly for us and we have to*



get those corrected and we will."

On fullback James Gibson: *"James is a junior and he has worked really hard in the offseason. He started for us last year as a sophomore and he is a big part of our offense. When you have a big fullback, who can hurt you inside like he can, and we are glad that he is healthy and that he is a great kid. He will be back next year in this offense and it helps to have a guy like him."*

On preparing for Lockhart next week: *"We have to first correct our mistakes in this game. We made lot of mistakes in this game, but our defense played well. Eleven points we gave up and our offense gave away some good field position, so I am proud of how our defense played. But Lockhart, we will go to work with them and they run an offense like us. It will be like seeing ourselves across the field. It's for a district game which is really important, and we will prepare for them the best we can."*

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