

# Outlaws stay perfect; Predators fall in season finale

By Huel Washington  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Entering the final contests of the regular Adult Flag Football Winter/Spring League season as unbeaten teams with 7-0 records, both the Outlaws and the Predators figured last Sunday's games were just another waltz through All-America Park. The playoffs are next week, and an undefeated season is reason enough to have a smile on every face.

During the season, each team relied on its defensive skills to limit the opponent's offensive unit's trips to the end zone. However, one team is not smiling now.

The Predators that held their opponents to 24 points in their seven wins, while scoring 114 themselves, ran aground with a loss to the Dawgs, 18-6. The defeated team was led by Michael "Shorty" Coleman, the two-time defensive player of the year in the 4A division who is second in the league in quarterback sacks with eight.

The league co-leaders were confident of another victory, considering their opponents, the Dawgs, although 5-2, had been victimized by the Outlaws the previous week, 20-6.

Things were really looking good for the Predators when their quarterback hit a streaking wide receiver with a toss that turned into an 80 yard touchdown run on the game's initial play.

The Dawgs mounted their own drive down the field, and although under steady pressure from the pass rush by the Predators, quarterback Paul Bennak found Sam Sandovia alone in the end zone with a toss to knot the score at 6-6.

After a Bennak pass attempt, a collision — between Clevon Brooks, 27, a two-way Predator stalwart, and Steve Johnson, 22—resulted in Brooks suffering a possible concussion. The mishap could have also contributed

to the downfall of the Predators. Brooks was an outstanding defensive coverman. He was missed by his teammates at critical times during the game. He was taken by the medical crew to Mountain View Hospital for x-rays and observation. Johnson was injured temporarily but continued to play.

In the second half, the Predators failed to score, while Norah Douglas put the Dawgs on the board again with a touchdown toss from Bennak in the back of the end zone.

Then, the icing on the cake came on the final play of the game when the same injured Johnson, recovered from his collision, intercepted a desperation pass, and hauled it 60 yards to pay dirt to make the score, 18-6 for the Dawgs.

After watching the game from the sidelines, the Outlaws took the field and administered a sound thrashing to the New Breed, 24-6, to remain the only undefeated team in Division 4A.

Troy Vaughan, in his initial season with the team that comes from around the Doolittle Gym area, proved to be quite a prognosticator when he said his team would go undefeated for the regular season.

Spotting the New Breed 6 points early, the Outlaws, with Slim Jefferson connecting with his top receivers Wade Perkins and Doug Gibson, literally demoralized the team attempting to come from Division 3A to 4A this season. The New Breed finished with a 0-8 record and scored only 36 points while allowing 162 during their initial season in a higher bracket.

Taking over as the team spokesman, Vaughan also predicted an overall win for the Outlaws.

"They should give us the trophy now, and get it over with," he said after the game.

During the regular season,

the Outlaws scored 141 points to their opponent's 30. That's pretty good defense and offense for a flag football team. The trophy just might end up in the hands of Perkins, Vaughan, and Jefferson, but the Predators will have something to say about that.

If Brooks returns and plays as he normally does, and the two teams meet in the championship game, the game will be worth the price of admission, which is free, at All-America Park at Alta and Buffalo each Sunday.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Huel Washington  
Clevon Brooks of the Predators (on back) and the Dawgs' Steve Johnson lay on the grass after a violent collision during the game. Medical personnel tended to both players.

The Dawgs' quarterback Paul Bennak gets a first down during an upset of the Predators, who were tied for league lead in the Adult Flag Football Winter/Spring League.

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