

Cougars jump ahead early, make key stop late in game to defeat rival Consol

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In the second edition of the “Hometown Showdown,” the football team prevailed over a second-half comeback by Consol, defeating the Tigers 24-17, while maintaining an undefeated district record and claiming outright first place in District 18-5A.

Following a Consol fumble on the second play of the game, the Cougar offense went to work, scoring on a 7-yard touchdown pass from junior Reece Easterling to junior Bra-

den Tschirhart with 9:03 in the first quarter. The Cougars added to their lead on an 18-yard field goal by junior Ryan Bowersox, and then Easterling found sophomore Quandree White on a 6-yard touchdown pass, making the score 17-0 College Station with 8:13 to go in the first half.

“We do really well when we jump out ahead,” Easterling said. “It set the mood and helped our players get in that aggressive mode of not letting off the throttle, especially when you are playing the rival of the town.”

The Tigers found a momen-

24
College Station
17
A&M Consolidated

tum swing on the ensuing kickoff, taking it back to the Cougar 36-yard line. Consol quarterback Mason Hickson then scored on a 2-yard run making the score 17-7 going into halftime.

On the first drive of the second half, Easterling connected with senior Mark Golladay on an 8-yard touchdown pass, giving the Cougars a 24-7 lead with

10:22 in the third quarter. Easterling finished the game 15-21 for 166 yards and 3 touchdowns.

The Tiger defense tightened up after that, intercepting a deflected pass and making a key stop, leading them to ten points, making the score 24-17 with 10:39 left in the game. After the Consol defense stopped the Cougar offense again, senior punter Evan Crockett pinned the Tigers at their own 5-yard line with 1:27 remaining but not before forcing the Tigers to use all three of their timeouts.

“It felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders,” Crockett

said. “We all had been working hard for the win, and I’m glad we won again for the second year in a row.”

The game ended with senior K.J. Grimes rushing Hickson who was forced to make a poor throw on 4th and 14 with 17 seconds remaining.

“Consol has a good offense, and so they were able to drive the ball on us, but when it really came down to getting the important stops, we were able to dig in our heels and stop them when it counted,” junior Mark Wagner said. “That was an awesome feeling.” •