

Outlaws Bantams rally in second half

The Orangeville Outlaws rallied with a strong showing in the second half of Sunday's (July 12) game against the TNT Express, but it was too late for them to get back into the game after going down 19-0 early in the second quarter.

‘It was a pretty good game all around,’ Said Outlaws wide receiver Connor Guzzo. ‘Our line played a lot better in the second half, they held up the defence and we got off a lot of plays. Our defence stayed strong as well in the second half and we had a good comeback. It got better as the game went on. At first we were a

little sloppy and we were down. As it went on it got better.’

The Outlaws were trailing by 19 before they got on the scoreboard in the second quarter when Guzzo scored on a long run down the field.

After taking possession later in the half, the O-ville team had to punt to get out of a hole and the Express started with a good field position and followed up with another touchdown.

O-ville's Aaron Hauck blocked the kick on the convert attempt.

The Outlaws made some ground when Jackson Bull made a first down run then followed up on the next play with another strong run that dropped the Orangeville team on the 20 yard line.

A fumble on the next play turned things against the Outlaws when TNT recovered the ball at the Orangeville 40 yard line.

When the teams returned for the second half, the Outlaws used the break to re-group and played a better third and fourth quarters starting with a good catch by Callum Murray for a gain.

The Outlaws gained some ground on a solid run by Mackenzie Rahn in the third quarter for a first down, then a pass to Guzzo who took the ball to the 30 yard line.

Guzzo got the Outlaws second TD of the game when he took the hand off and ran in to score.

Tyler McConnell completed the two-point convert for the extra points.

With time running out, the Orangeville team focused on getting more points on the board and pushed deep into the Express end.

Driving to the one yard line, the Outlaws lined up for a final push and were successful when Nathon Gray went through the middle with a pile of players to score the final touchdown of the game with 1:30 remaining on the clock.

O-ville's Nathan Falconi scored the extra two points on the convert attempt.

‘Our defence played good. Our defence didn't start up til later in the game which hurt us,’ Said Outlaws running back Jackson Bull. ‘If our offence did what they did at the end of the game, we could have won. We passed a little more (in the second half) and we had some successful passes and our defence held them up pretty good in the second half.’

The Bantam squad has had a tough season including a few squeakers - losing to Cambridge by a single point on May 31 - and are still looking for their first win.

They will get another chance this Sunday (July 19) when they host the North Bay Bulldogs at Westside Secondary School.

The kickoff is scheduled for 11:00 a.m.