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2006
Jenks Trojan Football



Photos courtesy of Mary Sharp Photography

Matt
Hulse
Senior

TULSA WORLD

Trojans counting on kicks

By BARRY LEWIS World Sports Writer

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g back to last season, Jenks has had four of its last six games decided by three or fewer points. The latest was a 9-6 victory in the Backyard Bowl on Friday night.

as many three-point decisions as Jenks had over the previous 3 1/2 seasons.

a schedule that includes Broken Arrow, B.T. Washington, Owasso and Muskogee over the next few weeks, the Trojans will probably be involved in a few more tight games.

result, the Trojans' kicking game will take on added importance. Although Jenks graduated one of the best kickers in school, Steven Woodward (who signed with North Texas), the Trojans' placekicking appears to be a strength.

Hulse's 45-yard field goal ultimately proved to be the difference against Union on Friday.

was a nice kick, especially for a guy who has had a sore leg," Jenks coach Allan Trimble said. "He has been nursing a hand (injury) and hasn't been practicing a ton. He's done well. He also kicked a 41-yarder in the (Jenks) Preview."

s kick midway through the first quarter opened the scoring. He had no idea it would prove to be so important after last year's game featured 92 points.

didn't figure it would come into play at all," Hulse said. "I had a good snap from Mitch Thomas and an awesome hold from Steve Boell."

Hulse always feels good when you get to play a big part in a game. It's not all the time a kicker gets to step up and do that."

Hulse's successful kick was even more noticeable because Union's Tress Way missed from 44 and 25 yards. Hulse could empathize with his Redskins counterpart.

"I didn't get an awesome leg," Hulse said. "It just wasn't his night."

Hulse's placekicking played a key part in three other high-profile games in the area on Friday.

Claremore's Matt Hall blocked an extra point with 1:38 left to preserve a 21-20 win over Victory Christian; Tahlequah's Stephen Cook kicked a 45-yard field goal with four minutes left to beat Claremore 17-14; and East Central's Travis Eason booted two field goals in a 41-14 victory over Sand Springs.

Another interesting view: Jenks quarterback Mark Ginther got to enjoy the ending of the Trojans' Backyard Bowl win much more than he expected. Ginther was selected as the game's MVP this year as he completed 11-of-17 passes and had an 80-yard TD run.

On Sept. 15, Ginther threw two TD passes but was knocked out of Jenks' 48-44 victory with a concussion in the third quarter.

"It was a disappointment I couldn't finish what I started last year," Ginther said. "You never know what is going to happen."

Large crowd: The official attendance of the Backyard Bowl was 17,806, a bigger paid crowd than the last two Jenks-Union games. A Union official estimated that the actual crowd was 24,000 when those who attended with free passes were included.

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