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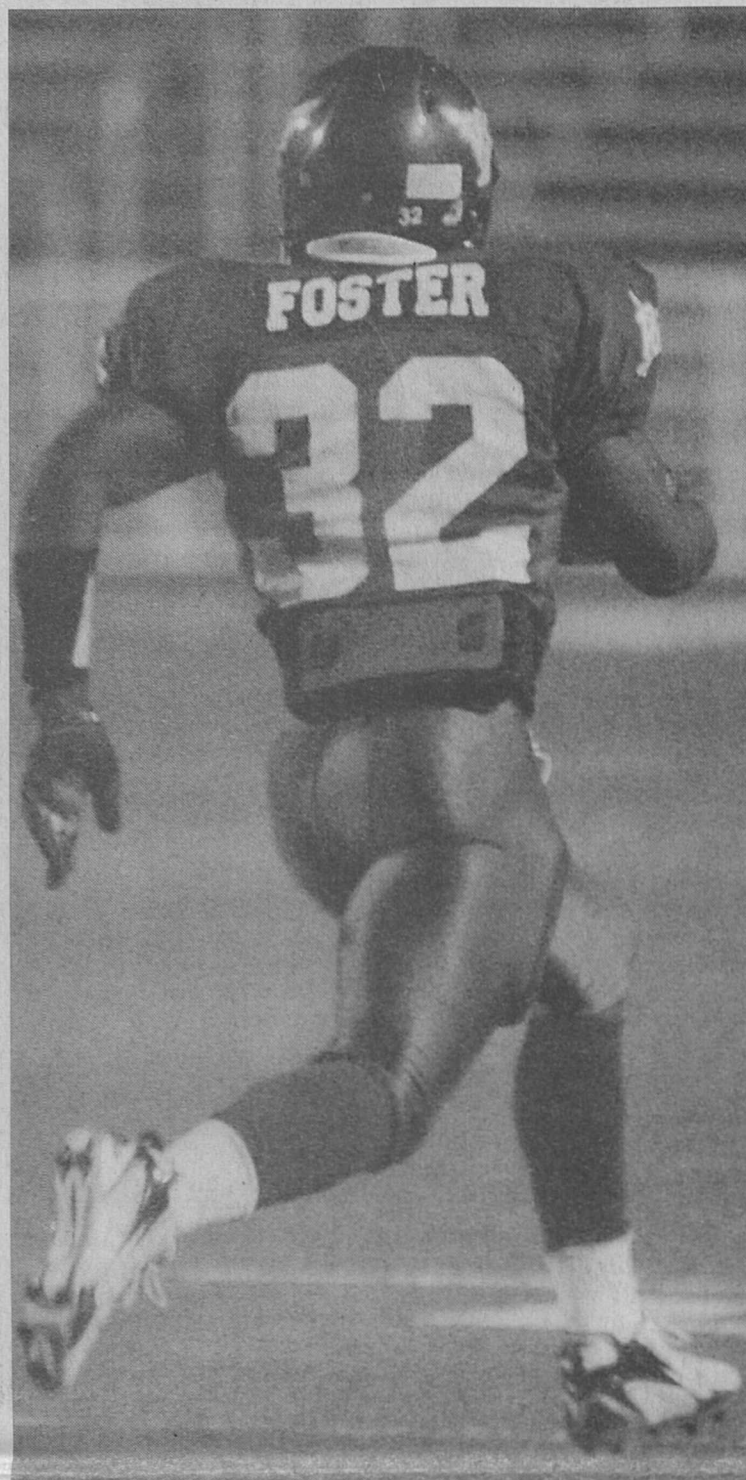
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

DECEMBER 13, 2007



Ziggy Foster heads to the end zone for the Raiders only score last Friday night in their win over Refugio.

Raiders Take On Elysian Fields In Semifinal

The Rice Raiders (13-1) will face Elysian Fields (13-1) in the State Semifinals on Friday night in Waco at 8:00 p.m. The game will be played at Waco ISD's Stadium. Directions on page B2.

Elysian Fields defeated district competitor Arp 19-13 last Friday to advance to the semifinals.

"They are the best team we have seen thus far," said Rice Coach Brad Dumont.

Their defense has only given up 110 points in 14 games, just over one touchdown per game.

"For us to come out on top

we will have to play like we did against Refugio," Dumont said.

Dumont indicated that they are physical and aggressive.

He said that they run the veer offense with split backs and that their quarterback has committed to play for The University of Texas El Paso.

"Ball control and bend but not break on defense is key," he added.

Elysian Fields run through the playoffs includes wins over Frankston (20-6), Hughes Springs (40-20), and Crawford (20-3).

Raiders Squeak By Refugio For Regional Title

The Rice Raiders have done it again. For the third week in a row Rice has pulled a one-point win out of the hat, this time over highly touted Refugio, 7-6, to advance to the state semifinals for the first time in school history.

"It feels great. This is something we have strived for in the nine years that I've been here," said Coach Brad Dumont.

Rice will take on Elysian Fields in Waco on Friday at 8:00 p.m. The game will be played at Waco I.S.D.'s Stadium.

The game again went down to the wire, where Refugio had a 39-yard field goal attempt to win with just nine ticks on the clock.

Rice's Kevin Ellis broke free on the left end of the line and got a piece of the kick to secure the Raider victory.

Quarterback Taylor Cook was key in the game, though it was largely his defensive effort that made the difference.

Cook forced two fumbles in the game, recovering one of them. He was 2-10 passing for 33 yards and also ran for 16.

The Raiders scored their touchdown early in the second quarter when Ziggy Foster broke an 80-yard touchdown run. Luis Samaniego made the extra point.

Foster had 139 yards on the night.

Later in the quarter, following Refugio's only touchdown, a poorly handled snap resulted in a missed point after, which turned out to be the difference in the game.

Five times in the game Refugio drove inside the Raider 40 and came away with nothing.

Rice forced two fumbles inside the 25-yard line to end scoring threats in the second half.

The Raiders forced Refugio three and out on the first posses-

sion of the game.

On their second possession, Refugio drove to the Raider 30, but the Raider defense forced them to turn the ball over on downs after failing on a fourth down try.

Their second possession drove all the way to the Raider 16, but again the defense held on a fourth down try and denied the Bobcats points.

Refugio had only three possessions in the second half, the first one ending when Carlos Sosa recovered a fumble on the Raider 25.

The next possession ended

with about eight minutes left in the game and Refugio driving at the Raider 21. After scrambling for what seemed like an eternity, Refugio's quarterback Malcolm Whitmire completed a pass to running back Carl Swain who made for the end zone. Cook met him near the goal line and managed to get the ball loose and make the recovery on the three-yard line.

"Taylor Cook came through again and stripped the ball to cause the fumble and recovered it," Dumont commented.

Other than the score on Foster's big run, this was the Raiders biggest possession of the game.

They got the ball with 8:34 left and went to work melting the clock.

"The last drive was big because our defense had been on the field a lot," said Dumont.

Cook ran for seven, then five yards and a fresh set of downs. Foster carried for nine more on the next play, then Cook for two and a first down. The clock ticked down around six minutes.

After a short loss, Foster got loose for an 18-yard pickup to the 42.

He then carried twice more for short yardage, where the Raiders

Continued on page B1



Kevin Ellis blocks the potential 39-yard, game winning field goal attempt by Refugio with just seconds left in the game. The ball is just off Ellis's left elbow.

Holland Honored By Business And Community Lenders

Business and Community Lenders of Texas held a building dedication ceremony in honor of two outstanding local leaders in Economic Development.

The BCL of Texas office building was renamed as the Holland-Parks Building, after two of BCL of Texas' founding board members Ronald Holland and Frank Parks.

Holland, city manager of Eagle Lake and Parks, retired city manager of Weimar have been actively involved on the board of CEN-TEX CDC dba Business and Community Lenders of Texas, since its inception in 1990. Holland has served as president of BCL of Texas for the last 10 years and Parks has served as the board secretary for 15 years.

In 1999, BCL of Texas, purchased a former Bank of America building at 2212 S. Congress Ave. in Austin.

"Once we started looking it took us a few months to find the best location and best financing for the purchase. We purchased the building with a \$75,000 capital grant from NeighborWorks America and a three percent loan from its affiliate the Rural NeighborWorks Alliance. This June we retired the building note. Our building is minutes away from downtown. We can see the capital from the front door. We couldn't have done it any better," said Ron Holland.

Throughout its steady growth across Texas BCL has experienced new challenges, and met several other non profits organizations like BCL that support business and community development.

In 2004, BCL formed a new collaborative, Texans for Rural Entrepreneurship and Education. The TREE collaborative is led by BCL and the goal is to provide business development support to South Texas underserved markets.

"Each region of Texas has unique needs, BCL has the capacity to

accommodate the needs of underserved markets," said Parks, Secretary of BCL of Texas. In 2007, the TREE Collaborative and BCL of Texas were among the first from Texas to participate in Entrepreneurship Week USA.

"Our growth across Texas and the diversity of our service delivery could not have happened without good leadership. It has been Holland's and Parks' vision and guidance that have helped me to create some of the best programs and services for business and community development across Texas" said executive director, Rosa Rios Valdez. During 2007 our staff counseled over 800 businesses, made over \$12,000,000 business loans, taught homebuyer education to more than 2,000 families and helped over 1,500 families to become homeowners. We provide high level quality service because we genuinely care about the customer.

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Pictured are State Rep. Robby Cook, left, Eagle Lake City Manager Ron Holland, seated, and Don Parks, former Weimar City Manager.

NEWSBRIEFS

Early Ad Deadline Notice

The Eagle Lake Headlight will have an early ad deadline for the week of Christmas, December 27. Deadline will be 5 p.m. Friday, December 21. Also for the week of New Year's, January 3 issue, deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, December 28. No exceptions.

Raiders headed to Waco Friday

The 2A State Playoffs State Semi-Finals Championship between the Rice Raiders and Elysian Fields Yellowjackets will be held Friday, Dec. 14 in Waco at Waco ISD. The game starts at 8 p.m. Presale tickets sold at Rice High School are \$7 for adults; \$3 students. All tickets at the game will be \$7. There will be a \$3 parking fee. Waco ISD will not open the gates until 6:30 p.m.

Lady Raiders schedule revised

The Rice Lady Raiders basketball teams will play on Saturday instead of Friday. It will be Rice vs. Edna here starting with the JV at 1 p.m. and varsity at 2:30.

Diabetic support group meeting set

A diabetic support group meeting will be held every third Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Methodist Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Prairie Street. ALL diabetics and their friends are welcome. The meeting will be held by and for diabetics as a means of support. The meeting will not offer medical treatment and is not affiliated with the Methodist Church. For more information call 234-2853.

MMBC to hold Gospel Fest Dec. 16

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) of Alleyton will present a Christmas Gospel Fest Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m. some of the featured artists will be the Bradby Girls of Houston, Just Twynz of Bryan, Puntin The Prodigal Son of Houston and many others. The public is invited. Please bring canned goods for our Christmas basket for the needy. For more information you may call 713-303-4371 or 281-935-3573.

Fireworks display to be held Dec. 31

Kick off your New Years Eve celebration at the Eagle Lake Fireworks Display Monday, December 31 at 6:30 p.m. on Calhoun Road. For more information call 979-232-0233.



The Golden Goose won best overall float in this year's Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade with its Fruit of The Loom theme.