

November 2000

A/27 MSB squeezes past HHC, 2nd BDE, 30-27

Story & photos by
Spc. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

A legendary Green Bay Packers coach once said, winning's not the most important thing; it's the only thing. That legendary coach's proverb was the driving force behind Co. A, 27th Main Support Battalion "Players" win over HHC 2nd Brigade "Blackjacks" 30-27, at Clear Creek Softball field on Monday.

Fighting to keep their season's perfect win record alive and advance to the next game in the post's non-divisional playoff tournament, Alpha 27th fought tooth and nail to barely escape the clutches of Blackjack with the help of their star twin players Darrol and Errol Boxton.

The Alpha Players won the coin toss and after the kickoff they quickly moved up field completing their first two pass plays. After an incomplete pass and a short-yardage running

play, Darrol Boxton put the first points on the board after catching a short-slant pass from quarterback Kenneth Sims, and blasting up the middle of the field until he hit pay dirt.

Trying to send an early message in the game, Alpha 27th attempted a two-point conversion, but Blackjack had other plans. A swift two-step, drop back pass by Sims was intercepted by William Matthews of the Blackjack and he was off to the races taking the pass back to his end-zone making the score 6-2.

On the Blackjack first offensive stance, they showed Alpha 27th why playing blackjack is a gambler's worst nightmare. After an off-sides penalty and three unsuccessful passes on fourth down the Blackjack scrambled for 20 yards and kept their drive alive. First and ten, the Blackjack went for the gusto and threw a touch down pass to Jeremy Keefe to put them ahead 8-6.

Just like true gamblers, Alpha 27th put on their poker face and put their money where their mouth was and gambled on trying to stop

the Blackjack extra point. The gamble paid dividends. Alpha 27th intercepted the pass and ran it back closing in on the lead 8-7.

Alpha 27th second offensive opportunity was pledged by offensive offside, but a roughing-the-passer penalty by the Blackjack gave Alpha 27th the ball on the 20-yard line. On a running play Alpha 27th took the ball ten yards, but as one Blackjack player pulled the flag of the runner an inadvertent tackle was made and that tacked on another 10 yards and another first down for Alpha 27th. They made Blackjack pay dearly for their mistake. On a play action pick out to the left, Boxton hit the side line and left nothing but a cloud of smoke in his trail to take the lead 13-8 and a two-point conversion made the score 15-8.

After a quick four-and-out by Blackjack, Alpha 27th smelled blood and went for the kill two minutes left in the first half.

In their hurry up offense mode, Alpha 27th struck quickly with the running game of Sims. A short gain up the middle gave them

another score and a commanding lead going into the second half 23-8.

Not intimidated by Alpha 27th scoring drive, Blackjack used time management themselves and fired off two long bombs within 39 seconds to give them momentum going into the second half trailing 23-15.

Rejuvenated and sensing a weakness in the Alpha 27th secondary, Blackjack opened the second half throwing the ball. But after one successful 10-yard gain, they turned the ball over on downs.

In a quest to continue their high-powered assault from the first half, Alpha 27th tried to run a delayed option. Blackjack read the play like it was an adolescent nursery rhyme book and intercepted the hand off taking the ball in the opposite direction. With the extra point Blackjack was back in the ball game and trailed 23-21.

Feeling the sense of urgency and noticing the dog fight mentality of the Blackjack team, Alpha 27th slowed down their offense and

started to eat the clock. Two pass plays moved the sticks for Alpha 27th, but the spiral down the middle to Errol Boxton was the clincher. Boxton took the pass and shook three defenders then broke down the sideline to put Alpha 27th one step closer to a perfect season and put the fire out of the hot Blackjack team.

Blackjack scored on their final possession to cut the lead 30-27, but they fell short to the old saying -- too little too late.

"This game was a good game for us. It also was a wake up call. We had to make some adjustments, but we did what we had to do down the stretch. I had a pretty good game tonight. It was a good test for me," said Darrol Boxton of Alpha 27th.

Dynamic Duo, Errol Boxton restated his brother's emotions saying, "We had to step up our game tonight. We were use to blowing teams away, but tonight they came in and give us a good game. That's the great thing about playoff games, you play better teams so your team has to turn it up or you get put out."