

Grangers Surge Late Against Braves

By Randall Lipford
Staff Writer

The Heard County High School football team finally kicked off the 2009 season this past Friday on the road against AAA powerhouse LaGrange. The Braves put up a valiant effort for three quarters before LaGrange pulled away to win by the final score of 34-7. The Braves had several opportunities to tie the score early in the game, but turnovers ultimately kept the Braves offense in check. "The game was real physical, it is always hard to try and contend with a team that is as good as LaGrange," stated head coach Tim Barron. "Now that we got that game out of the way, we can focus on winning the rest of the games and trying to make the playoffs."

The Grangers started the scoring first when they had a two-yard touchdown run by their quarterback with 8:50 left in the first quarter. That touchdown had been set up by a Heard

County fumble, which gave LaGrange the ball on the four yard line. The Braves responded by driving the ball down the field only to fumble the ball again on the one yard line. Despite their frustration, the Braves offense responded on their next possession with 5:05 left in the first quarter on a touchdown pass from senior quarterback Santez Emory to junior Martez Winston. The Braves score tied the game until the Granger's quarterback scored on a sixty-eight yard touchdown run with only 1:12 left in the second quarter and also gave the Grangers a 14-7 lead heading into half-time.

The Braves defense held up very well against the Grangers offense for much of the night. The score remained the same until the Grangers added another touchdown late in the third quarter to give LaGrange a 21-7 lead. The Grangers added a couple of touchdowns during the fourth quarter to complete the scoring, and the game ended with the Braves falling to the

Grangers for the second year in a row. "It is tough to come so close to winning against a team as good as LaGrange because they are a tradition rich program," offered assistant coach Rich Fendley. "Most every team in the state would love to win like they do. They also are one of the most athletic and well coached teams that we have to play this year."

The football team had been lifting weights and practicing all summer and they got to put all of that hard work to use on August 21 when they had a scrimmage game at home against the Bowdon Red Devils. The game was well played for both the Red Devils and the Braves, but there were some mistakes during the game as the Braves turned over the ball four times in only two quarters before bad weather ended the game. The game was halted early in the third quarter with the score being tied at 13-13.

Barron saw the scrimmage as an opportunity to polish up before the start of the regular season. "As far as a

scrimmage game, the execution and effort of the players were real good," claims Barron. "There were a lot of coachable mistakes that were made. Our big problem during the game was holding onto the football, you can't expect to win a football game if you turn the ball over four times in two quarters, but for a scrimmage game, I believe it was a success to our team." The Braves look to add a win to their record when they play their home opener against Howard this Friday.

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2008-2009 Football Roster

#	Players	Grade	Offense	Defense
1	Jaquay Williams	10	WR	OLB
2	Tray Johnson	11	RB	OLB
4	Jeremy Cheeks	12	RB	DB
5	Santez Emory	12	QB	DB
7	DeAunte Holloway	11	WR	DB
9	Damiean Jones	11	RB	DB
10	Martez Winston	11	QB	DB
11	Shuntavius Swindle	12	WR	DB
12	Tyler Spradlin	11	RB	OLB
17	Cory Whaley	11	WR	OLB
18	Drew Cameron	11	K	DB
20	Isaac Cospier	11	RB	OLB
21	Jeremiah Hill	12	RB	LB
23	Robert Bishop	10	WR	DB
24	Brandon Daniel	11	RB	DL
26	Trevor Spradlin	11	RB	DB
27	Tyler Wynn	10	RB	DL
32	Drew Tatom	10	TE	OLB
35	Jeffrey O'hearn	11	RB	LB
38	Kevin Kidd	11	OL	LB
46	Blake Hardy	10	RB	LB
47	Dusty Swint	11	OL	LB
49	Beau Brooks	11	WR	OLB

#	Players	Grade	Offense	Defense
46	Blake Hardy	10	RB	LB
47	Dusty Swint	11	OL	LB
49	Beau Brooks	11	WR	OLB
52	Drew Lashomb	12	OL	DL
53	Trey Brice	10	OL	DL
54	Marcus Battles	12	OL	LB
55	Chris Cook	11	OL	DL
56	Sawyer Dennis	11	OL	DL
57	Kevin Welch	12	OL	DL
58	Jamari Lewis	12	OL	DL
60	David Robbins	10	OL	DL
62	Matt Smith	10	OL	DL
63	Hank Barnes	9	OL	DL
66	Corey Freeman	9	OL	DL
68	Nathan Kirk	11	OL	DL
74	Austin Yates	10	OL	DL
77	Cody Stephens	9	OL	DL
78	Zach Nichol	10	OL	DL
79	Dalton Pate	9	OL	DL
83	Zach Lashley	11	WR	OLB
86	Brandon Smith	10	WR	DB