

Lometa wins first playoff game in a decade; second round awaits

BY MASON HINES
DISPATCH RECORD

“There’s a lot of words I could use, but I can’t just pick one ... Just so excited for our kids,” was Lometa head football coach D.T. Torres’ initial reaction to the Hornets’ 53-20 playoff win Thursday night – their first since 2011.

The Hornets, who finished as the runner-up in their district behind perennial power Jonesboro, took care of a familiar foe in the Medina Bobcats. Lometa had lost to Medina in both 2016 and 2017.

“I always imagined this feeling, but I can’t put it into words,” Torres said of winning his first playoff contest as a head coach. “I’m so happy for the kids, what we’ve done, what we’ve gone through, from former players to now. We’re just gonna enjoy this.”

Torres, who took the helm for the Lometa team in 2014, was 0-3 in playoff games before this victory.

Senior Alonso Caso also shared his excitement after the win.

“It feels good to come back to Fredericksburg and have a different result than last year,” Caso said. “It’s all just new to me, you know. I’ve never experienced this, but I’m happy. I thank God.”

Caso, who accounted for three touchdowns and nearly 200 yards of offense Thursday night, highlighted how the Hornets’ game plan propelled them to victory.

“We knew we had to get our short passes down and stop their passing game,” the

senior said. “I think we did pretty well at doing that.”

Caso was correct in that assessment, as five different receivers caught passes totaling 179 yards and five touchdowns for the Hornets.

Next, Lometa will face state-ranked Water Valley this week, but Caso believes Lometa can get the job done.

“We’ve gotta watch their film, game plan well, but I think we can go out and get a win,” Caso said.

Although the team starting slow on offense, Lometa’s defense shined in this contest. The defense stopped the Bobcats early and allowed for the offense to take some control.

After the teams traded scores, momentum seemed to shift when Tim Juarez found Dyllen Workmon in the end zone on the receiving end of a 38-yard pass.

After breaking that scoring tie, Lometa began to roll, methodically putting up 21 unanswered points to end the half ahead by that margin.

Medina scored quickly after the break, but the Hornets proved to be the better team, finishing with a 33-point margin of victory.

Juarez and Caso accounted for 75% of



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Tim Juarez runs past a Medina defender as the Hornets won their first playoff game since 2011.

Lometa’s total scoring.

On the defensive side of the ball, Donnie Smart and Leonel Caso led the way with seven tackles and six tackles, respectively. Seven different Hornets recorded a

tackle in the game.

Lometa will need to get ready for its matchup with Water Valley, ranked No. 4 by Dave Campbell’s Texas Football magazine. The Wildcats are undefeated and

opened their playoff run with an emphatic 58-0 victory over Gorman on Friday night.

A date and location for the game had not been announced as of press time Monday.



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