

Falcons' running game slows Boise

Burk, Davis follow their horses to an impressive victory

By Greg Kilmer
Matchup

Coach Layne Coffin felt it might be a long, tough haul if his Vallivue Falcons were to return to the postseason.

But the sixth-year VHS head man knew he had the horses to do it.

Behind a mammoth offensive front, the Falcons posted their second win of the 2011 campaign with an impressive 44-26 victory over the Boise Braves in an SIC game.

"We were a little sluggish to start, but we got it going," Coffin said after Vallivue's ground game rolled up 454 yards. "We have to be able to run the football to be successful."

And it's the boys up front who were responsible to get running backs Mike Burk, Ringo Robinson and Sean Davis the running room they needed. They did just that against the Braves, with Burk leading the way with 171 yards on 27 carries.

"They've got some huge guys up front," Braves coach Bob Clark said of Vallivue's front five, led by 300-pound senior David Trefoil. "Their running game was very impressive.

"We couldn't get them off the field, and then the



John Jansen provides the defense early in Boise's game against Vallivue.

second half just killed us."

The Falcons opened the game with a 10-play, 69-yard drive, capped by Burk's first of two touchdowns. Then quarterback Jamari Rogers, who hit on 4-of-9 tosses on the night, hooked up with his lone scoring strike, a 44-yard post to Parker Garner for a 15-0 advantage.

But BHS quarterback Tanner Gustavsen kept things interesting, hooking up on a pair of 21-yard scoring strikes to Andrew Allison and Chase Choate to trail 23-13 midway in the second quarter.

With the VHS defense all

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Dylan Shumway, XXXXXXX, Jaren Kahoiwai and Nick Alba get ready for the play.

GAME SUMMARY

Boise	7	6	6	7	-	26
Vallivue	15	8	8	13	-	44

V – Mike Burk 2 run (Sean Davis pass from Jamari Rogers)

V – Parker Garner 43 pass from Rogers (Ringo Robinson kick)

B – Andrew Allison 21 pass from Tanner Gustavsen (Travis Brown dyke kick)

V – Robinson 1 run (Burk run)

B – Allison 21 pass from Gustavsen (kick failed)

V – Sean Davis 20 run (Davis run)

B – Skyler Rowe 20 pass from Gustavsen (kick failed)

V – Burk 7 run (run failed)

V – Evan Johnson 39 run (Robinson kick)

B – Louis Grem 12 pass from Gustavsen (Brown dyke kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Boise – Gustavsen 8-12, Matt Mello 5-10. Vallivue – Burk 26-171, Davis 13-118, Rogers 6-63, Robinson 8-47, Layne LaFollette 1-13, Nik Monnier 1-1.

PASSING: Boise – Gustavsen 20-34-2-262 yards. Vallivue – Rogers 4-9-0-79 yards.

RECEIVING: Boise – Allison 5-104, Louis Grem 4-41, Cameron Mayne 3-36, Rowe 7-80, Mello 1-1. Vallivue – Garner 1-43, Davis 1-25, Johnson 1-6, Robinson 1-5.

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but shutting down Boise’s run game (eight yards in the first half), the Braves had to throw. Gustavsen put it up 35 times, connecting on 20 for 270 yards and four scores.

“He’s a good thrower. He can do a lot of things for them,” Coffin said of Boise’s three-year starter who connected with six different targets, led by Allison’s six catches for 92 yards.

But the Braves could never get within single digits, thanks in part to their own mistakes and an improving Falcons defense.

“We’ve just got to minimize our mistakes. We repeatedly hurt ourselves tonight,” Clark said, noting Boise’s three turnovers, seven penalties and numerous missed assignments. “We have to improve in many areas if we are going to succeed.”

Despite having problems keeping his first team defense healthy, Coffin was impressed for the second straight week with his defenders, who held Mountain View to 260 yards in a 20-6 loss last week.

“W played decent. There are things we need to cover up a little but I was happy with the effort,” Coffin said. “We’ve had to juggle our lineup quite a

bit so far this season. We’ve had to deal with a lot of illness and injuries, so it’s been tough getting the people we want out there.”

The defense made up for Vallivue’s lone turnover in the third period when the Braves recovered Rogers’ fumble at the VHS 28 yard line, trailing 31-19. But Gustavsen was sacked on first down and a chop block penalty on the play pushed Boise back to midfield, where the threat ended.

Rogers then led his team on a seven-play drive to push the Falcons lead to 37-19 on Burk’s seven-yard scoring dash.

Helping that defense heal was the Falcons’ tight wing formation, which kept defenses off balance and on the field. Coffin’s attack kept foes guessing who was going to get the ball and how.

Burk and Robinson pounded the ball between the tackles while Davis was a threat via the option or counter traps. Davis finished the game with 112 yards, while Robinson added 65 more.

“They do a good job offensively,” Clark said. “They are big up front and their backs use them well. It’s tough. They have a lot of weapons.”