

NOT SO PERFECT BUT STILL UNBEATEN

GI recovers from sloppy first half to get to 4-0

By Mike Meiler

BUFFALO ---After an abysmal first half during which they turned the ball over twice and were one play away from being in a deep hole, the Grand Island Vikings overcame themselves to beat the Hutch Tech Engineers, 24-6, in a non-league football game Friday night at All High Stadium

The Vikings (4-0) trailed 6-3 after the first half, during which quarterback Quinn Corrao threw two interceptions. If not for a high snap on a Hutch Tech punt, the Viking offense may have been shut out. The Grand Island defense gave up a 48-yard touchdown on a broken play, and could've given up a lot more had it not been for multiple drops by wide open Hutch Tech receivers.

But Grand Island shut out the Engineers (0-4) in the second half, and the junior-to-junior connection of Corrao and receiver Ben Goc sparked an offensive comeback.

"Obviously, we made a lot of mistakes, but that's the best 0-4 team you're going to play," Grand Island coach Dean Santorio said of the Engineers. "I'm proud of our kids. It's a long, long game, and we really overcame a lot."

The Engineers got the ball to start the third quarter, and two runs and 26 yards later, it looked like the Vikings were in for another long half. But senior linebackers Max Oursler and Anthony Zogaria combined to stuff Hutch Tech's Joe Brown for an 11-yard loss on an outside run, and the Engineers were eventually forced to punt. Corrao and Goc took over on the next drive, connecting five times for 41 yards, including a 5-yard touchdown, on a 17-play, 74-yard drive that gave the Vikings the lead for good.

"Quinn played great in the second half and our backs and lineman came alive," Santorio said.

"We ask a lot of (Goc), as a junior, to go out and make plays for us," he added. "He's been able to do that so far and he did it today. There were a few low balls I thought he made really nice plays on, and he kept a lot of drives alive for us."

After a Hutch Tech three-and-out, the Vikings orchestrated another long drive, this time led by senior running back Danny Blocho. The nine-play, 61-yard march included only two passes and was capped off by Blocho's 2-yard touchdown run.

A second Blocho touchdown, this time from 12 yards out, sealed the game late in the fourth quarter.