

The LaGrange football team came back from a two-game losing streak with their first shutout of the season Friday night against the Eagle's Landing Golden Eagles 44-0.

"I'm happy the Grangers finally got their mojo back tonight," said Bridget M., a long-time Grangers fan.

The Grangers picked up momentum quickly when Peyton Davis scored the first touchdown during their first possession. On the Golden Eagles' first possession, they had one of the more unusual plays of the night where their running back, Walker Lovinsky, ran full-speed into an official and was knocked on his back.

"I've seen officials get run into by players, and the official get knocked down, but I have never seen a player run head-on into an official and the official stood his ground, and the player hit the ground. It was totally unique. To me, it was the hardest hit of the game," said Tommy W., long-time sports announcer with Eagle Sports.

DeAnthony Stewart added another touchdown on a 6-yard run at the end of the first quarter. The Golden Eagles struggled to answer the Grangers' offense, going three-and-out during the first possession and taking a timeout late in the first quarter.

"Favorite play of the night was the first touchdown by LaGrange," Chandler W., an announcer with Eagle Sports, said. "After LaGrange lost back-to-back games for the first time in 4 years, it was nice to see them get their offense back on track early en route to a victory."

LaGrange picked up speed in the second quarter, scoring 23 unanswered points. Antonio Colton scored a third touchdown for the Grangers, but it was called back due to a false start. That did not slow down the LaGrange offense. Davis ran 40 yards to score another touchdown, putting the Grangers up 21-0 less than a minute into the quarter.

The offense was not the only scorer for the Grangers. Xavier Park completed a sack, forcing a punt. That punt did not go well for the Golden Eagles, as it led to Qua Sanders tackling the punter in the end zone for a safety. The safety extended the Grangers' lead to 23-0 without their offense having to take the field with less than 10 minutes remaining in the half.

"Linebacker Xavier Park, number 24, made several really good tackles and did a good job. He stood out to me during the game," Tommy W. said.

The Grangers' next possession ended with Cockrell running a 35-yard touchdown. Less than two minutes later, Davis pushed his way through the Golden Eagles' defense to score his third touchdown of the night. By halftime, LaGrange had built a 37-0 lead.

During halftime, LaGrange recognized its golf team, which won a state championship last May. The players and coaches received their state championship rings and were announced by name for their accomplishment during the on-field ceremony.

The second half gave the Grangers an opportunity for their younger players to gain some field time while continuing to keep Eagle's Landing from scoring. The clock did not stop running until the end, making it difficult for the Golden Eagles to make a comeback.

While the Golden Eagles were able to pick up some momentum in the second half and make it into the red zone twice, they were still unable to score. With under 4 minutes left in the third quarter, Grangers number 19 Josh Johnson intercepted a pass. Eagle's Landing answered with an interception of its own roughly three minutes later. Neither of the interceptions resulted in points. With under 6 minutes left in the game and the Grangers back in possession of the ball, Jeremaine Williams scored the final 10-yard touchdown of the night for the Grangers.

"I was really surprised when that interception happened. I thought for a moment that maybe the game wasn't going to be a complete shutout, but Eagle's Landing couldn't keep up the energy," said Granger fan Maddy G.

"In high school football, this is something we often see that makes broadcasts a little tougher at times because one team was clearly outclassed by the other in terms of talent and program progression. It was good to see LaGrange back in the win column, but it also was nice to see that a program like Eagles Landing that has a lot of youth, starting a freshman at Quarterback among others, showed sportsmanship and class even in a blowout loss. Classy showing from both programs," Chandler W. said.

The Friday night victory was LaGrange's first win since its season opener. The Grangers are now 2-2 for the season with losses to Troup from Week 2 and Ola from last week. LaGrange entered the game against Eagle's Landing ranked ninth in Division 5A after moving up from 3A last year. Region play begins next week, traveling to play against Harris County.