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## Talented Lake Country squads best Flyers

*Dan Schmidt  
Reader Submitted*

The Oshkosh Flyers Football Club ran into one of the stronger programs in the league on Saturday, Sept. 19, with closely contested games at each grade level. The eighth grade lost to a formidable Lake Country team, 20-14. The seventh grade played to a 14-14 draw with the Chiefs while the sixth graders dropped a 20-0 decision. The fifth grade Flyers also fell with a tough 13-12 loss.

After spotting Lake Country two quick scores, the eighth grade fought back and managed to tie the game just before halftime. Following a Chiefs score in the second half, the Flyers put together a late drive but came up short in the end.

Head coach Steve Frank had praise for his team. "I am very proud of the way our kids hung in there when they very well could have given up. There was no quit in them and we battled until the very end of the game," said Frank.

Offensively, the Flyers were led by quarterback Sam Olejnik ,who fired touchdown passes to Skylar Hazelwood and Cole Yoder. On the defensive side of the ball, Jake Dullum, Trevor Wenig, Colton Sasman and Lucas Garcia led the effort.

After a scoreless first half, the seventh grade Flyers also faced a 14-0 deficit in the third quarter. Following minor adjustments, backs Mitch Perdue and Michael Lor began to find running room thanks to some inspired offensive line play. Isaiah Merrill scored on a fumble recovery and a Jacob Christopherson touchdown pass to Paul Egan brought the Flyers back to even.

"Our team showed a lot of character coming back from 14 points down to tie the game," said head coach Bob Dahl afterward. "The kids responded with a total team effort led by our linemen; they were up to the challenge and I am very proud of their effort." Reid Rauchle also drew praise and "really stepped it up on the defensive line in the second half," according to Dahl.

The sixth grade Flyers struggled early against a "very disciplined" Lake Country squad and never fully recovered. According to head coach Jeff Franklin,"Our team was not focused in the first half. Offensively, we were not able to move the chains and we struggled with execution all day. We need to overcome some fundamental mistakes." Ever the optimist, Franklin also commented, "Our defense stepped it up by not allowing any points to be scored in the second half."

Fifth grade head coach, Andrew Spanbauer described his team's loss as "a learning game for all of our players. We had several chances to make plays which would have helped our team win but we were not able to execute."

Carson Faust and Cameron Sorenson connected for two first-half touchdowns as the young Flyers took a 12-7 halftime lead. A 68-yard score and extra point conversion by Lake Country in the second half proved to be the difference, however.

"Again our defense was extremely tough this week, only allowing three first downs the entire day, but our mistakes were too much to overcome," said Spanbauer.