

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ■ NEW BRAUNFELS 41, BASTROP 21

# Bastrop season ends



**Kelly West** AMERICAN-STATESMAN

New Braunfels' Matt Schmid is taken down by Bastrop's defense during the Unicorns' 41-21, bidistrict playoff victory at Bobcat Stadium in San Marcos on Friday night.

# New Braunfels' consistent late scoring tops Bears

By Danny Davis

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

SAN MARCOS — On Friday night, a mythical creature put an end to Bastrop's magical season.

The New Braunfels Unicorns scored on seven straight possessions in a 41-21 bidistrict playoff win over Bastrop at Bobcat Stadium. The win sends the Unicorns into next week's Class 5A, Division II area playoffs, where they will face Corpus Christi Carroll at the Alamodome on Saturday.

"We worked hard. The team battles," said New Braunfels quarterback John Simmons, who ran for two touchdowns. "It was a good win for us. This group of guys isn't satisfied."

New Braunfels (8-3) salted away the game in the second half, killing Bastrop momentum with big plays from its special teams.

Following a Bastrop touch-

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down in the third quarter that cut the Unicorns' lead to 10 points, New Braunfels went three-and-out and was forced into a punting situation. But on the punt, Bastrop's Colton Tucker was flagged for roughing the punter, a penalty that gave New Braunfels a first down.

Four plays later, New Braunfels was back in punting formation, but a run by Jericho Gomez on a fake punt call gave the Unicorns another first down.

The two fourth-down conversions led to a 12-yard touchdown run by Simmons that put New Braunfels up 24-7 with 11:57 left in the game.

After a Josiah Monroe touchdown pass pulled the Bears back within 10 points with 9:02 left, the Unicorns were forced to burn a timeout when Bastrop lined up for an onside kick.

Following the timeout, Brett Rychel scooped up the onside

See **NEW BRAUNFELS**, C6

# NEW BRAUNFELS: First half a case of missed opportunities

Continued from C1

kick attempt and returned it 54 yards for a touchdown. The score gave New Braunfels a 17-point lead that Bastrop could not overcome.

"That was a spark," Simmons said. "That was definitely a momentum changer."

Rychel said: "It was really big, I think that was one of the big factors. I think that sealed the deal."

After a scoreless opening quarter, New Braunfels got into the end zone on a 46-yard run by Jeremy Garcia midway through the second quarter.

Aaron Hayduk's 43-yard field goal on New Braunfels' next drive helped

send the Unicorns into halftime with a 10-0 lead.

The first-half scoring was a disappointment in both locker rooms. Both teams had missed opportunities to score.

On its first drive of the game, after taking a delay of game penalty from the Bastrop 5, New Braunfels missed a short field goal.

Hayduk's second-quarter field goal followed a dropped pass in the end zone by Garcia.

Bastrop came up empty on a 15-yard drive in the first quarter when Lee McMillan's 31-yard field goal was blocked.

New Braunfels, however, made the most of its opportunities in the

second half.

The Unicorns' only drive in the final two quarters that didn't result in points was their final one, which consisted of a kneel-down to end the game.

"When you get into the playoffs, the breaks go to some people, and they got the breaks," Bastrop coach Gerald Perry said. "We got outplayed tonight."

Bastrop, which won a share of the District 25-5A championship a year after going 2-8, ended its season with a 9-2 record. Monroe, a junior, accounted for 307 yards of offense and three touchdowns for the Bears.

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Bastrop junior Josiah Monroe carries the ball against New Braunfels during the Unicorns' playoff victory in San Marcos on Friday night.

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