

Season saved, major victory for New Mexico.

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Some might say it is too early to save a season, but that is what happened to the Volcano Vista Hawks after their 27-24 win over Las Cruces. With only three districts in class 6A and three district championships handed out at the end of the regular season every game is crucial. Even non-district games because of the tiebreakers that can help teams clinch homefield or be forced to travel on the road in the playoffs. Could also be the difference for who gets in and who will be watching from home. The Hawks only played one half their first game of the year due to lightning halting the rest of the game. The first half did not go the Hawks way with the defense struggling and the offense gaining no traction as their only score came via defense with a pick six. It seemed the night was going to belong to the Bulldawgs, and an 0-2 start was coming for Volcano.

The second half swung to Volcano Vista with the defense playing lights out football the rest of the game only giving up a field goal the rest of the night and the offense finding their way. The offensive line took cover creating hole after hole on each run play they called and scored three touchdowns the rest of the night taking the lead with 1:03 left in the game. Las Cruces used every second they had on the clock to drive down the field to setup the game tying field goal to force overtime. The field goal attempt missed hitting the right goalpost with the Hawks winning 27-24 to pickup their first win of the year. The win keeps Volcano in the hunt to be a contender for the playoffs and possibly be in play for a high seeding as well. Las Cruces will be making a return trip north to play the Rio Rancho Rams in a marquee matchup that could determine another tiebreaker at the end of the year while Volcano Vista will battle the Sandia Matadors.

One team that had a major victory this past weekend was the La Cueva Bears making the trip west to Arizona beating a very good Pinnacle Pioneers football team 39-32 in double overtime. The Bears were the first team from Albuquerque to play outside the state in over 50 years and represented the state proudly. The odds were stacked against the Bears as well being down double digits 12-0 and down 25-10 with two minutes left in the game. Even the second half got shortened to eight-minute quarters due to a lightning delay. La Cueva showed great poise and determination being able to score fifteen points in two minutes to force overtime. In overtime, everyone on the field played their best football with their best players quarterback Cam Dyer and linebacker making great plays and having great leadership to lead their team to victory. The win showed that New Mexico can play football against other great teams from out of state and there are talented players here as well. Major victory for the entire state of New Mexico.

Week three is here and there are a slate of games that are going to be entertaining. The game of the week will be Las Cruces-Rio Rancho. A possible state championship matchup in 4A with Portales-Bernalillo. A game that could determine who plays in November or stays home in Cibola-Eldorado. A battle of contrast in styles with Farmington-Los Lunas. A battle of the Academy's with Hope Christian-Albuquerque. Battle of the best run games in Moriarty-St. Pius

and one more game of the week with Artesia-Centennial at the field of dreams to conclude week three.