

## Weekend Sports Wrap-Up

It was a busy weekend of athletics at Gadsden High School as both the football team and boys' soccer team had games.

The Panther football team opened up their 2018 campaign, the first under new head coach Dino Facio, on Friday by facing the Deming Wildcats. Gadsden played hard but couldn't come back from an early deficit, losing to the Wildcats 18-12.

"I feel like I got hit by a train, so many ups and downs," Facio said. "I don't like the result but I like the fight. It's all about not giving up and giving yourself a chance. If that fourth-quarter team can show up for the first three (quarters), it's a different ball game."

Gadsden was down 12-0 at halftime. And a Deming touchdown in the third quarter upped their lead to 18-0, a lead they kept into the fourth and final quarter.

But the Panthers showed grit and determination down the stretch and they didn't let a three-score deficit deter them. Gadsden had two quick touchdowns in the final quarter, the last one by senior Jacob Mena, to cut the Deming lead to one score, 18-12, with under two minutes to play.

The defense also tightened up in the quarter and held the Wildcats offense to a three-and-out as Gadsden got the ball back with 1:36 left to play and a chance to tie or win the game. The Panthers quickly marched down the field and got into Deming territory but unfortunately time would run out as Gadsden fell short of the win.

"We went into halftime talking about not giving up and giving yourself a chance," Facio said. "I like the fact that they fought all the way to the end. The kids have bought in a little bit into what we're selling and they have heart."

Gadsden football will next play in El Paso versus Mountain View this upcoming Friday night.

Meanwhile the Gadsden boys' soccer team continued its season on Saturday with an afternoon matchup against one of the best teams in the state, Hobbs.

Gadsden, also playing under a new head coach in Brian Gil, played the Eagles tough. But eventually two second-half goals gave Hobbs a 3-1 victory over the Panthers.

"We played a good, well-rounded team in Hobbs," Gil said. "In my opinion, they're one of the favorites to win state. We lost to a good team."

Hobbs would have the only goal in the first half as Gadsden went into halftime trailing 1-0. But an early goal from sophomore Andres Andrade would tie up the matchup at 1-1.

The rest of the second half was back-and-forth as both teams tried to take the lead. Eventually, however, it would be the Eagles who would score two late goals to take the lead and the win.

"I saw some heart in the boys tying up the match, and we're going to learn from this," Gil said.

Gadsden soccer now heads to a tournament in Las Cruces this upcoming weekend.