Jacob Bottelberghe (20) got tough yards against Adrian. A determined look on Jacob Cheadle's (44) face led him to a touchdown on this run against Adrian.

OPENING NIGHT LITTLE SIOUX CONFERENCE SCORES:

Tracy-MB 36, MACCRAY 14

Dawson-Boyd 72, Renville Co. West 0

Lakeview 15, Murray Country Central 6

Canby 35, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 14

Fulda 22, Ortonville 18

Minneota 49, Adrian 12

By Byron Higgin, Mascot Sports Editor

It was the "Game of the Week" in Minnesota — two state finalists in Class A going at each other to open the season.

But Thursday night the state champ, Minneota, would have little of that talk and rolled to a 49-12 win over Adrian.

"We expected to come out slow," said junior captain Adam Josephson. His Vikings gave up an opening touchdown to Adrian and trailed, 6-0.

"But we got the jitters out of the way, tightened up and did some adjusting. We stepped up," Josephson said.

Coach Chad Johnston, emotion forming in his face, grabbed senior fullback Brandon Anderson and gave him a hug.

"Not bad for a guy who started out as a quarterback, hey," Johnston laughed.

Anderson had just set an all-time Minneota rushing record. He was shy 12 yards going into the game. His 134 yards on 18 carries more than put him into the record books.

Minneota came out after Adrian's score and drove the ball 67 yards for a touchdown, using only the run.

""We have a lot of balance," said Anderson. A lot of kids stepped up. This was only the first game," he said.

Quarterback Beau Buysse led the assault, rushing and passing for touchdowns while throwing three completitions in four tries for 95 yards.

One was a 66-yard bomb to Jacob Cheadle.

"When you want something so bad, you go out and get it," said Buysse.

He was also one of the anchors on defense from his linebacker position.

"We knew the right side of our line was going to be tough (Josh VanOverbeke and Jordan Longtin), but the left side really stepped up," Anderson said about the blocking of new starters Blake Abraham and Andrew Thompson.

Center Jacob Horner, who hurt a knee in a scrimmage played the entire game and didn't flinch as he added to the blocking that led the Minneota run down the field.

"This is only a stepping stone. We're going to get better," said Josephson.

After Buysse ran 30 yards to cap the first touchdown drive and Saul Calderon boomed the first of his mightly seven points after, the Vikings were rolling.

They stopped Adrian behind middle linebacker Josephson and got a break when the Adrian snapper sent the ball too low to kicker Kyle Kilgore, who took a knee on the five yard line and the Vikings were in buiness.

Cheadle scampered over on the first place and before the Dragons could blink it was 14-6.

"That was a great play that put us in a great position," said Coach Johnston.

By halftime the Vikings had upped the score to 21-6 after a 56-yard drive that took just four plays. Cheadle broke around right end and rambled 35 yards for a score and a little later a stunned Adrian headed into the locker room down, 21-6.

Minneota took the opening drive 57 yards and scored when Anderson ran it over from the two yard line. It was 28-6 and Adrian was desperate to get back in the game.

They momentarily held off the Vikings with their own drive of 80 yards that ended with paydirt when quarterback Tyler Hornstein rambled four yards for the touchdown.

It was 28-12 but Adrian wasn't ready for what came next.

After Jacob Bottelberghe broke lose on a 20-yard run, Buysee cranked a 55-yard pass that

Cheadle caught over his shoulder to set up a first down on the 15 yard line. Moments later Walker Hennen caught a Buysse pass for an 18-yard scored and suddenly it was 35-12.

A shook up Adrian fumbled the ball, Christian Skillings recovered and Minneota was on their way to another Anderson touchdown. He scored for a yard out for a 42-12 lead.

The final score came from the second team as T. J. Bueltel scored from the one. Calderon boomed his seventh point after and the final was 49-12.

"A lot of the kids stepped up. I was so happy with this win," said Coach Johnston.

He talked about how Adrian ran the ball early behind Brock Bullerman and, "We didn't recognize their scheme. But we made adjustments."

He said everyone knew his team was going to be a "run-oriented team." But added, "We expect to throw more than we did tonight but the run game was clicking. The offense is based on what we can get," the coach said.

"Normally we don't get a lot of breaks down here, but we got them tonight. "I'm happy," said Coach Johnston.

DEFENSE: Buysse and Josephson led the defense that gave Adrian just 221 yards. Walker Hennen also added some hard hits and was a defensive leader along with VanOverbeke and Longtin.