



MHS defenders Andrew Bryant (67), Landon Branine (40) and Zach Kimble (85) surround a Buhler runner and bring him down during Friday's Homecoming victory.

## Cats Drop Buhler

# Warm Up For 'Crunch Time'

It's time to take the "gloves off," Mulvane High School football coach Dave Fennewald just hopes he can.

The "second season," as coaches like to call it, is the only season now for the MHS Wildcat gridders, and making the Class 4A playoffs is the goal as Mulvane heads into its three district games following a 22-7 triumph Friday night, Oct. 10, in the MHS Fall Homecoming game over Buhler's Crusaders. That win squared Mulvane's record at 3-3 -- and 0-0, too.

"From an overall standpoint, that was our most complete game of the year, offense and defense," stressed Fennewald. "We really controlled the first half and the kids played with a lot more intensity. Now, they just have to take it to the next level intensity-wise."

That's because the next three games, starting with a trip to Chaparral Friday night, Oct. 17, will determine the destiny of this team. The Cats will be trying to make the playoffs for the 2nd consecutive season by finishing 1st or 2nd in the district. Wellington and Clearwater are the other two teams in the district, and the top two will advance to play into November.

Against Buhler, a team that slipped to 1-5 for year, Mulvane decided the tempo on both sides of the football. The Wildcats let the visiting Crusaders know who was in charge early. Mulvane's defense held the Crusaders to only 33 yards total offense and about a dozen plays in the opening half.

"We ran off about 35 plays in the first half," said Fennewald. "We should have been up by 20 points but we had a penalty stop one drive and an interception in the end zone stop another one."

Still, the MHS boys were ahead 8-0 after the very first drive of the game and by intermission, it was 14-0, and things were looking rosy. Caleb NeSmith started the momentum rolling Mulvane's way when he took the opening kickoff back to near mid-field and from there the Wildcats drove smoothly to paydirt. Senior quarterback Travis McGuire, who had his biggest rushing game, cut it up inside and scored on a four-yard run with 7:35 left in the initial period. Gavin Snider's run made it 8-0.

"Travis had a great game," agreed Fennewald. "He had some nice mid-line runs. That's where he goes down the line reads what is happening and reacts accordingly by cutting it up or pitching. He made a lot of good decisions Friday night."

He made a lot of yards, too. McGuire finished with 27 carries and 160 yards. Grant Snider had 63 yards in seven carries, fullback Landon Branine chewed up 46 yards in 16 tries and Gavin Snider had 41 yards in 10 carries. That gave the Wildcats 310 yards on the ground—the Mulvane defense held Buhler to only 99 yards rushing.

Branine jammed in from two yards away in the 2nd quarter for Mulvane's second TD and the way the Cat defense was handling business, it was apparent that might be plenty.

The Wildcats put the game away in the 4th quarter with a clock-killing, 17-play

Buhler	0	0	7	0	7
Mulvane	8	6	0	8	22
Touchdowns	Buhler	Adam Langvardt (25 runs)			
Mulvane	Travis McGuire (4 runs)	Landon Branine (2 runs)	Grant Snider (23 runs)		
Points after touchdowns	Buhler	Brad Coleman (4-4)	Mulvane	Gavin Snider (4-2 runs)	

### TEAM STATISTICS

	Buhler	Mulvane
First Downs	10	17
Total Yards	171	369
Yards Rushing	99	310
Yards Passing	72	59
Passes Attempted	15	6
Passes Completed	4	2
Passes Intercepted By	3	3
Punts Average	34.2	14.0
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Yards Penalized	17	32

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

#### Rushing

Buhler: Adam Langvardt 6 carries 45 yards. Aron Wilson 15 yards. Wade 3.41 Ryan Powers 8.20 Aaron Edgar 2.5. Mulvane: Grant Snider 23, Landon Branine 16, Travis McGuire 27, Gavin Snider 16, 41.

#### Passing

Buhler: Wade 3 completions 35 yards. Wilson 2 interceptions. Mulvane: Travis McGuire 4, 59 yards.

#### Receiving

Buhler: Brad Coleman 4 catches 37 yards. Adam Langvardt 2, 39. Andy Wells 1, 10. Mulvane: Zach Kimble 2, 59.

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Landon Branine 2 tackles, 5 assists. Chase Hansen 1. Grant Snider 2.6. Mason Leonard 1.3. Andrew Bryant 0.3. Tyler Pudden 1.3. Gavin Snider 1.2. Zach Kimble 0.2. Ben Hedgepath 0.2. Travis McGuire 0.2. Steve Swanson 0.1. **Fumble Recovery:** Chase Hansen. **Interceptions:** Grant Snider, Zach Kimble 2.

drive of 90 yards and scored. Grant Snider hot footed it around the right side the last 23 yards and scored with 5:22 left in the game.

"Our defense played a good ball game," said Fennewald. "We were in the wrong alignment on a couple of plays when they had their scoring drive but the defense generally played well. Grant Snider had a whale of a game on defense, his best of the year. We needed him to step up and be physical and he was. He came up and filled on runs. It was also nice to have a healthy Zach Kimble in the secondary. They were picking on him a little in previous games but he was healthy Friday night and that all ended. Zach gives us a pretty strong secondary. When people pass the ball, I think that is going right into our forte because we have good, veteran people in the secondary. That's a match-up we want to have."

Linebacker Branine once again paced the Wildcat defenders in tackles with 10. Chase Hansen had one of his better games, too, with eight tackles and a fumble recovery. Grant Snider had eight stops and an interception and junior Mason Leonard and Andrew Bryant had five and four tackles, respectively. Tyler Pudden and Gavin Snider also had four stops. A healthy Kimble came up with two interceptions.

Fennewald doesn't know what to think about Chaparral. The Roadrunners used to be in the Chisholm Trail League but left it about 10 years ago to in favor of the Central Plains League. Chappy is 2-4 this season and averages about two TDs a game.

"It doesn't matter what they've done before, everybody is 0-0 now," said Fennewald. "Our goal is to be 1-0 after Friday night."