

Cats Host Wellington

It's Time For Prime Time

Mulvane High School footballers hogged the ball Friday night, Oct. 17, when they went to a key District 14 game at Chaparral. Just call the Wildcats "Ball Hogs!"

That plan worked to perfection against the host Roadrunners and put the Wildcats on a collision course once again with Wellington for District 14 honors in the Kansas post-season playoffs.

The Cats climaxed a time-consuming drive through much of the 4th quarter Friday night with a thunderous five-yard touchdown run by fullback Landon Bramme which put the game away with 1:26 remaining and sent the Cats to an 18-7 triumph over Chappy.

It was the third consecutive victory for Coach Dave Fennewald's Cats, who are now 4-3, and with a single-minded goal of making the playoffs. Chappy dropped to 2-5 for the year.

It was scary for a while, though. One reason was history. The second was a concern that although dominating the game, Mulvane was nursing only a 12-7 lead into the final three minutes of the game.

Let's talk about history first. This victory was Mulvane's first on Chaparral's turf.

"We've kind of been jinxed over there," admitted Fennewald, "but I didn't want to tell the kids that." Fennewald remembers the last trip to Chaparral in 1999. Mulvane was ahead by 15 points and blew the lead in the final quarter when the Roadrunners scored 15 points and won, 30-29. During the 90's, though, Chappy beat the Cats three times at home without a loss.

"We dominated the game but had a hard time finishing them off in this one," admitted Fennewald. "I mean, we had 450 some yards of total offense and had only 12 points to show for it going into the final minute and a half of the game. That's always scary because just one little slip up and they can win the ball game."

Fennewald was quick to point out, however, statistics don't win ball games. Results do.

There weren't any slip ups this time. The defense did its thing. The offense started to march and Bramme took "close" out of the equation with his second touchdown of the game.

"That was the biggest game of the year for Landon," said Fennewald. "People are trying to take away our outside game and with Chaparral's defense, it was really built to take

away our offense, but we were able to squeeze Landon up the middle for some good yardage and (quarterback) Travis McGuire also broke away for some gainers inside."

Bramme finished 25 carries for 166 yards, the senior's biggest night as a Wildcat. McGuire chalked up another 83 yards in 14 carries.

It was McGuire who put the Wildcats ahead early in the game with a 25-yard touchdown caper that featured a 24-yard pass play from McGuire to Zach Kimble and a 20-yard run by Grant Snider.

Mulvane didn't take long to pay a return visit to "the house" when Bramme streaked 55 yards for a score in the 2nd quarter off a toss play. But the rest of the night was a picture of frustration. Although the yards kept coming, Chappy kept hanging around.

"We had a tumble while driving deep into their territory, then we had an interception when we got into the wrong formation," said Fennewald. "We also ended the half by being tackled at their three-yard line. If it wasn't a miscue it was a penalty that stopped a drive."

What Fennewald liked most, though, was the poise shown in that sea of adversity. "Despite all the errors, the kids kept coming at them," said the MHS coach. "We showed a lot of poise, I thought, and didn't get frustrated by it all. The kids just knew sooner or later, they were going to put the finishing touch on them."

That point came later than sooner, but the Wildcat defense would not budge. "In the 3rd and 4th quarters, they didn't move the ball at all," said Fennewald. "I think they punted it six times, so that kind of shows you what was going on out there on the field. We felt it was just a matter of time."

And Mulvane's time came.

On defense, sophomore strong safety Sage Swaney had his best game of the season with seven tackles. Bramme was tough on this side of the ball, too, with 12 stops. Chase Hansen had 12 tackles, Gavin Snider

had seven, junior Mason Leonard had seven with the team's only sack, Grant Snider and Tyler Pudden had four tackles each.

"One thing I feel good about is that we have gotten better every week," observed Fennewald. "I'm proud of that fact. Our passing game has improved. Our defense has improved. Our offensive line play has improved. Our running game has improved. And now, it's on to the biggest game of the season."

Game time Friday night against Wellington (5-2) is 7 p.m. at Lyle Couch Field.

District 14 - 1st Game

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Mulvane | 6 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 18 |
| Chaparral | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Tom Johnsons | Mulvane | Travis McGuire | (25 runs) | | |
| Landon Bramme | 2 | 55 | 5 runs | Chaparral | Jacob Moore |
| (2 runs) | | | | | |
| Points after four downs | Chaparral | Brandon Stevens | (4-4) | | |

TEAM STATISTICS

| | Mulvane | Chaparral |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| First Downs | 11 | 5 |
| Total Yards | 452 | 112 |
| Yards Rushing | 350 | 114 |
| Yards Passing | 102 | 58 |
| Passes Attempted | 11 | 13 |
| Passes Completed | 5 | 4 |
| Passes Intercepted By | 0 | 2 |
| Points Average | 122.0 | 629.0 |
| Fumbles Lost | 1 | 0 |
| Yards Penalized | 90 | 25 |

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Mulvane—Landon Bramme 25 carries 166 yards, Grant Snider 5 38, Travis McGuire 14 83, Gavin Snider 9 63, Chaparral—Austin Vornau 7 26, Nick Blanchard 20 78, Jacob Moore 3 6, Brett Cordeman 2 6, Spencer Harbin 1 1.

Passing

Mulvane—Travis McGuire 5 completions 11 attempts 102 yards 2 interceptions 0 TD, Chaparral—Spencer Harbin 4 13 58 0 0.

Receiving

Mulvane—Zach Kimble 3 catches 69 yards, Gavin Snider 2 33, Chaparral—Peter Elliott 1 12, Brett Cordeman 1 21 11, Zahradnik 1 7, Austin Vornau 1 18.

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Landon Bramme 2 tackles 10 assists, Chase Hansen 0 12, Sage Swaney 0 7, Gavin Snider 2 5, Mason Leonard 1 6, Grant Snider 2 2, Zach Kimble 1 2, Brock Murray 1 2, Tyler Pudden 0 4, B.J. Headgepath 0 3, Gavin Snider 0 3, Andrew Bryant 0 3, Travis McGuire 0 3, Matt Myers 0 1, Kyle Wornacks 0 1. Sacks—Mason Leonard