



Wildcats Zach Kimble (85) and Grant Snider (20) cut off the outside against Wellington as Cats Landon Branine (40) and Gavin Snider (32) close in **Playoff Hopes Still Alive**

Crusaders Return Favor, Ring Cats' Bell

Remember a year ago when a couple MHS football dads rushed the Wellington Victory Bell and rang it following Mulvane's victory in Wellington over the Crusaders?

Well, Friday night, Oct. 24, the Crusaders rang Mulvane High School's bell, crushing the Wildcats, 41-8, in a game that pretty much decided the outcome of the District 14 winner.

Wellington rumbled through the Cat defense for two touchdowns in the first four minutes of the 2nd half to end the speculation about the game. The Crusaders, who are now 6-2 and 5-1 in the Chisholm Trail League Division II race, need only to win tonight (Oct. 30) to claim their 11th District championship in the last 12 seasons. The Wildcats still have solid playoff hopes, too, needing only a victory at home against 1-7 Clearwater to play into November.

If the Wildcats prevail against Clearwater, they will go on the road Tuesday, Nov. 4, to the District 13 winner, which appears to be Andale, for a 7 p.m. first round playoff game.

The Wildcats sealed their own fate by not scoring on two great chances in the opening half that could have kept the game close. Wellington led, 14-0, after two methodical, grind-'em-out drives that produced a pair of one-yard touchdown runs. In fact, Wellington scored five of its six touchdowns on one-yard runs, which says a lot about how the game was played. The Crusaders pounded and pounded, ending up with 337 yards in rushing.

"Everybody was writing off Wellington at the start of the year but after watching films and watching them against us, they haven't missed a beat," emphasized MHS Coach Dave Fennewald. "They're playing as well now as they have the last two years when they have been (Class 4A) state champions. I knew we were going to have to stop a ground game when they scored 45 points the last three ball games."

Wellington opened the season by losing to Wichita North, then in week No. 3, the Crusaders lost to Andover Central. Since that game, however, Wellington has averaged more than 41 points a game.

In reality, the Wildcats couldn't stop the Crusader ground game. The visiting Crusaders kept grinding out the yardage, throwing only two passes. Wellington had 56 plays to only 33 for Mulvane.

"It really should have been about 14-7 at halftime and it could have been a tie game but we didn't convert after two big plays and against a team the calibre of Wellington, you can't squander any chances," said Fennewald. "And you can't have four turnovers against a team like that. You have to play a perfect football game and we didn't. There are no excuses, they were just a better football team than we were Friday night."

After Wellington posted 14 points in the opening quarter, the Cats came back but couldn't "finish." Fullback Landon Branine broke loose on a 51-yard gallop early in the

District 14 Game

Wellington	14	0	21	6-41
Mulvane	0	0	0	8-8
Touchdowns - Wellington: Zane Aguilar 5 (1, 1, 1, 1, 1), runs; 21, run with fumble; Matt Trent (1, run); Mulvane: Travis McGuire (68, run)				
Points After Touchdown - Wellington: Ferris 5 (kicks); Mulvane: Gavin Snider 2 (runs)				

TEAM STATISTICS

	Wellington	Mulvane
First Downs	21	7
Total Yards	404	215
Yards Rushing	337	200
Yards Passing	37	15
Passes Attempted	2	8
Passes Completed	2	1
Passed Intercepted By	2	0
Yards/Average	2.29	2.30
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Yards Penalized	40	25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing
Wellington - Zane Aguilar 15 carries 97 yards, Matt Trent 16 103, Rowdy Lewallen 11 86, Markley 3 19, Brinkmeier 2 8, Brown 3 2, Keller 5 17, Allton 1 5, Mulvane - Gavin Snider 3 28, Grant Snider 1 11, Travis McGuire 15 101, Landon Branine 6 60

Passing
Wellington - Zane Aguilar 2 completions 2 attempts 67 yards 0 interceptions 0 TD; Mulvane - Travis McGuire 1 8 15 3 0

Receiving
Wellington - Rowdy Lewallen 2 catches 67 yards; Mulvane - Zach Kimble 1 15

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Landon Branine 0 tackles 16 assists; Chase Hansen 2 12; Gavin Snider 10 3; Grant Snider 4 3; Mason Leonard 0 7; B.J. Headgepath 3 10; Zach Kimble 3 2; Sage Swaney 1 4; Andrew Bryant 1 3; Kyle Womack 1 0; Travis McGuire 0 4; Mike Padden 0 1; Brock Moray 0 1

second quarter but got caught inside Wellington's 20-yard line. The MHS offense collapsed then and after a sack on 2nd down, Mulvane had a 3rd and 23.

Later in the 2nd period, Gavin Snider broke loose on a 14-yard run but stumbled when he had broken into the clear and went down. It was just another 14-yard gain instead of a TD because they wouldn't have caught the Cat speedster.

"That was just how our night went," admitted Fennewald. "Gavin just didn't get balanced back up after eluding a couple of tacklers and stumbled. After Landon's run, we had a penalty and a mistake and those are things that have been plaguing us all season long. We're not a good 3rd-and-23 team."

Fennewald feels his Wildcats gave good effort in the loss. "Our kids played hard, I really was proud of the effort the kids gave in the ball game, but they just manhandled us up front," said the Cat coach. "They beat us up front very, very badly. They had more size than we did and they just handled our line."

Mulvane's only score came on an option around the left end. Quarterback Travis McGuire cut up field and raced 68 yards for a touchdown with 6:40 left in the game but it was too little, too late. The Crusaders put the game away in the 3rd quarter by scoring 21 points. The middle of those three TDs came on another option try around the right side and came on Mulvane's 1st play following a Wellington touchdown. McGuire got hit as he pitched. Wellington's Zane Aguilar scooped up the ball and ran 21 yards to paydirt.

"We were concerned about stopping them on defense," said Fennewald. "Our defense is designed to try and stop what they do. We put it in to take advantage of these teams that spread you out and run between the tackles, but it was unsuccessful because they dominated us up front. When you get Gavin Snider at strong safety making 13 tackles, that tells you what's happening at the line of scrimmage."

The Crusader defensive line also kept the Cat's explosive offense in check. Mulvane rushed for 200 yards but most of that yardage came on the three long plays—McGuire's 68-yard TD run, Branine's 50-some-yard scamper and Gavin Snider's 14-yarder. All the rest of the offense amounted to under 70 yards.

"Sometimes you run up against a team that's just better than you are and that's what happened," added Fennewald. "The staff was concerned about it before the game. Wellington has a darn good football team. One thing with Wellington football is the expectations from the community. They expect to do well. They also expect to do well in the playoffs, not just get there, so they don't start getting prepared for this in September. That's one thing we tried to get across to our kids after the ball game."

McGuire finished with the lion's share of rushing yards—101 in 15 carries. Branine had 60 yards.

Defensively, Branine was in on 16 tackles, Chase Hansen had 14 and Gavin Snider had 13. B.J. Headgepath had 13 tackles and Grant Snider and Mason Leonard finished with seven tackles apiece.

So now, it's down to a one-game season. A victory against Clearwater will put the Cats in the playoffs for the second consecutive season. "The kids still have a lot to play for," said Fennewald. "These seniors have a chance to win 20 games in their three years on the team and they can also be the first Mulvane team to make the playoffs two years in a row. Not many can say that."

In fact, not any can say that since Mulvane High has never qualified two years in a row. But now that the state has changed the rules and qualifies the top two 4A finishers, it could happen more often.

Chisholm Trail League Football Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
v-Rose Hill	5	0	7	1
Maize	4	0	6	2
Goddard	4	2	5	3
Mulvane	2	3	4	4
Valley Center	2	3	2	6
Buhler	1	5	1	7
Augusta	0	5	0	8

DIVISION II

v-Andover Central	5	0	8	0
Wellington	5	1	6	2
Andale	4	2	6	2
Kingman	3	2	4	4
Circle	1	4	4	4
Clearwater	1	5	1	7
Andover	0	5	0	8

x-clinched CTI championship
Games Tonight (Oct. 30)
(Regular Season Finale)

Clearwater at Mulvane, 7 p.m.
Chaparral at Wellington
Andale at Smoky Valley
Andover at Council Grove
Andover Central at Rose Hill
Circle at El Dorado
Kingman at Hugoton

Games Friday, Oct. 31

Independence at Augusta
Buhler at Great Bend
Bishop Carroll at Goddard
Dodge City at Maize
McPherson at Valley Center

Last Week's Game Results

Wellington 41, Mulvane 8
Chaparral 38, Clearwater 16
Andale 42, Haven 7
Collegiate 42, Rose Hill 27
Circle 7, Andover 0
Andover Central 63, Douglass 0
Pratt 21, Kingman 14
Goddard 17, Kapaun Mt. Carmel 3
Maize 24, Garden City 7
Salina South 69, Valley Center 0
Hays 28, Buhler 13
Winfield 14, Augusta 7