

First Shutout Of Year

Back-To-Back 4A Playoffs

This time, the Mulvane Wildcats finished their work of art.

The MHS football Cats clinched a second straight journey into the Kansas State Football Playoffs Thursday night, Oct. 30, by finishing off the hapless Clearwater Indians. It was strong start-strong finish - end of game for the Indians as the Wildcats stampeded past them, 36-0, in the final game of the 2003 regular season.

Mulvane had a ton of incentives riding on the game's outcome. The victory gave Coach Dave Fennewald's club a winning record (5-4) for the regular season. It also gave the Cat defense a big lift to notch its first shutout of the season. More importantly, the game clinched a spot as the No. 2 team in District 14 and put the Cats into the playoffs for the second year in a row.

Last year, the state association changed the rules and allowed the 1st and 2nd place teams in each district into the playoffs. The Wildcats won District 14 last year and advanced into the 2nd round of the playoffs. Mulvane has never qualified for the playoff two years in a row since a playoff system was installed in 1969.

The Wildcats have made the playoff only three other years (1985, 1991 and 2001).

"Offensively, we moved the ball real well again." Clearwater," said Fennewald. "We scored on our first three possessions. That's been something we've been able to do in most of our games. We move the ball early but don't finish things. Thursday night, we were able to finish things off."

It didn't take the playoff hungry Wildcats long to establish a game long trend. They scored on their 1st possession. They scored on their 2nd possession. They scored on their 3rd possession. It was 22-0 before the end of the 1st quarter.

"Going into the game, my big concern was would we be flat," said Fennewald. "Clearwater had nothing to lose by playing sky high. The longer we let them hang around, the more dangerous they would be, so we went into the game with an extra emphasis to get off to a good start."

After the game, everyone was elated. "One of our goals was to play in November (by making the playoffs)," pointed out Fennewald. "One of the things we stressed in practice was that there are only 32 (4A) teams still playing in November but we don't want the kids to be satisfied with just that."

Mulvane took the opening kick and marched 65 yards in seven plays and senior fullback Landon Bramine slammed it into the "promised land" from six yards out. Clearwater went 3-and-out and the Cats took it right back in for another TD. This one from seven yards out.

Moments later, senior Tyler Pudden knocked the ball loose from an Indian runner and Chase Hansen fell on the fumble near midfield. On the second play, Gavin Snider scooted around end for 45 yards and a third score.

"We tried to use our speed against them because they aren't very quick," noted Fennewald. "That was one weapon we felt could be effective. With Grant Snider and Gavin Snider and quarterback Travis McGuire, we had an edge in speed but we also got a lot of yardage out of Landon Bramine between the tackles. Our offensive line pretty much dominated things inside and that set up things on the outside for our speed boys."

It was quite an offensive game for the Wildcats. Mulvane pounded out 400 yards rushing to a minus-five yards on the ground

for the Indians, who saw their season end with a 1-8 record. They couldn't stop Bramine, who carried 25 times for 189 yards, his most as a Wildcat.

Gavin Snider chalked up 101 yards in seven carries, McGuire lugged the pigskin 12 times for 67 yards, reserve QB Logan Sorensen had another 36 yards and Grant Snider ran it twice for 14 yards as the Wildcats did the damage nearly exclusively on the ground. McGuire had only two pass attempts and hit them both.

It also was a night of glory for the MHS defense, which posted its first shutout since the 2nd game of the 2002 season when Mulvane drubbed Andover, 16-0.

"Once we got into the game, the kids really wanted to keep that shutout," said Fennewald. "Our defense was just terrific the entire game. We got a great game out of Sage Swaney, who led the team in tackles with 10, two of those for losses and we forced a couple turnovers."

The Cats', in fact, had three sacks - one by Mason Leonard, one by Pudden and one by Swaney. That's the most sacks in one game this year.

"We also had a great game out of our (defensive) line," continued Fennewald. "Pudden, Andrew Bryant, Chase Hansen and Mason Leonard really stopped things up inside. It was the best overall game our d-line has played this year."

Swaney finished with 10 tackles. Bramine and B. J. Headgepath at linebacker had seven and five stops, respectively.

Fennewald is hoping the thorough game against Clearwater can provide some momentum going into the playoffs. "One thing this team has done is improved every week," said Coach Fennie. "This team has been getting better and better. Last year, I thought we had peaked when the playoffs arrived but these

District 14 Finale

Clearwater	0	0	0	0-0			
Mulvane	22	6	8	0-36			
Touchdowns	Mulvane	Landon Bramine	3	(6, 7, 1)			
runs	Gavin Snider	(45 run)	Travis McGuire	(1 run)			
Points after touchdown	Mulvane	Landon Bramine	4	(2 runs)	Grant Snider	2	(0 run)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Clearwater	Mulvane
First Downs	4	21
Total Yards	92	426
Yards Rushing	Minus 5	400
Yards Passing	97	26
Passes Attempted	20	2
Passes Completed	8	2
Passes Intercepted By	0	1
Points/Average	4.32	2.34
Fumbles Lost	2	2
Yards Penalized	20	30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Clearwater - Shaver 5 carries minus 24 yards, Berntsen 4 (1), S. Joenecker 7 (6), Mark Bruley 1 minus 5. Mulvane - Gavin Snider 7 (0), Grant Snider 2 (4), Landon Bramine 25 (18), Travis McGuire 12 (6), Logan Sorensen 4 (6), Caleb Smith 5 (minus 7), Sage Swaney 1 (0).

Passing

Clearwater - Shaver 12 completions, 18 attempts, 59 yards, Landon Bramine 0 (0), Mark Bruley 0 (1), Chris Lane 0 (0), Logan Mulvane 0 (0), Travis McGuire 2 (2), 26 (0).

Receiving

Clearwater - Chris Lane 4 (at 5), 35 yards, Landon Bramine 1 (1), Chris Lane 1 (1), Mulvane - Grant Snider 1 (1), Zach Knapp 1 (1).

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Sage Swaney 5 tackles, 2 for loss, Landon Bramine 4 (6), Chase Hansen 1 (5), B. J. Headgepath 0 (5), Gavin Snider 1 (3), Tyler Pudden 1 (0), Mason Leonard 1 (1), Kyle Wanda 1 (0), Matt McGuire 1 (0), Travis McGuire 0 (0), Grant Snider 0 (0), De. J. Parks 0 (0), Eric Grafton 0 (0), Kyle Headgepath 0 (0). Sacks - Mason Leonard 1, Tyler Pudden 1, Sage Swaney 1. Fumble Recoveries - Chase Hansen 1 (at 7), Bruley 1. Interception - Zach Knapp 1 (1).

kids keep improving and I think there is a better one out there someplace.

And turning the game into a blowout in the 3rd quarter gave Fennewald and his staff a chance to get a good look at the future. "We got to see a lot of kids and that was pretty nice," said Fennewald. "A lot of our jayvee kids played."