



Quarterback Logan Sorensen (11) breaks away from a tackler as Jacob Hatfield (84) heads for a block in Friday's opener vs. Augusta

Opening Day Defeat

Wildcats: No Passion, No Victory

Meek and mild-mannered might work for Superman but it doesn't for the Mulvane High School football squad.

The Wildcats played with little emotion, and little passion Friday night, Sept. 3, when Augusta came to town. The results were predictable. Augusta slammed the Wildcats around for a 32-14 victory in Mulvane's inaugural game in the Ark Valley-Chisholm Trail League game.

Mulvane's in Division 3 of the new league set-up and so is Augusta.

"Passion is the word I'm looking for and we didn't play with passion," said Coach Dave Fennewald after entering his 13th season with MHS. "I thought we would be much more physical than we were. That was the biggest problem for us. We tackled very, very poorly and that's one thing that really surprised me. We just did a poor job of gang tackling."

One glance at the defensive statistics and the lack of assists (indicating gang tackling) stands out like a sore thumb. Tyler Pudden and Sage Swaney had one assist each and Mason Leonard two. That makes three for the whole game!

"We had a lot of guys standing around watching their buddies making a tackle but we didn't gang tackle at all," said Fennewald. "We just did a poor job. Watching the films later, we saw a lot of grabbing and a lot of arm tackling. We have med over the years to take a lot of pride in our gang tackling. It doesn't take a great athlete to make a great tackle but it does take someone with emotion and enthusiasm to make a tackle and we didn't see any of it."

The Orioles came into the season opener in Mulvane Friday night with a host of returning starters and it didn't take long for their experience to surface. Augusta scored on its first two possessions, putting the young Cat offense, with only one returning starter, behind the 8-ball. The Orioles scored about five minutes into the game, then again two minutes later, taking a 14-0 lead after one period.

"Getting down 14-0 in a hurry really hurt us if for no other reason than a confidence standpoint," pointed out Fennewald.

Augusta 14 6 12 0—32
Mulvane 0 0 0 14—14
Touchdowns—Augusta: Chase Phillips (5, 34, runs), Eric English (18, run), Harrison Dreiling (43, run), Jarrod Steele (8, run); Mulvane: Logan Sorensen (5, run), Caleb NeSmith (1, run)

Points After Touchdowns—Augusta: Dreiling 2 (run), Andrew Tolle (kick); Mulvane: John Knight 2 (run)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Augusta	Mulvane
First Downs	15	14
Total Yards	300	185
Yards Rushing	268	145
Yards Passing	32	40
Passes Attempted	6	17
Passes Completed	3	5
Passes Intercepted By	1	1
Punts/Average	3/32	6/33.8
Fumbles Lost	0	2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Augusta—Harrison Dreiling 6 attempts-93 yards, Chase Phillips 5-49, Jarrod Steele 4-20, Eric English 6-60, Emond 5-35. Mulvane—Logan Sorensen 21-137, Sage Swaney 3-16, Caleb NeSmith 10-2, John Knight 3-8.

Passing

Augusta—Harrison Dreiling 3 completions-6 attempts-32 yards-1 interception-0 TD. Mulvane—Logan Sorensen 5-16-40-1-0.

Receiving

Augusta—Tolle 1 reception-13 yards, Hancock 2-19. Mulvane—Knight 2-12, Swaney 3-28.

Defensive Statistics

Jody Shook 7 tackles-0 assists, Matt Myers 4-0, Tyler Pudden 3-1, Logan Sorensen 2-2, Mason Leonard 2-2, Caleb NeSmith 3-0, John Knight 3-0, Jason Wohlford 3-0, J.D. Hansen 3-0, Andrew Myers 2-0, Sage Swaney 1-1, Jacob Bolton 1-0, Joe Correia 1-0, Danny Schneider 1-0, Tyler Oblinger 1-0, Jesse Pierce 1-0. Fumble Recoveries—0. Interception—Caleb NeSmith. Sacks—J.D. Hansen, Jody Shook.

Augusta's 3rd drive nearly resulted in another TD. As the Orioles were going in for a score, senior linebacker J.D. Hansen tipped a pass and Caleb NeSmith intercepted it. But that didn't serve as a fire-it-up call. "That play right there should have been a great lift for us but there was no enthusiasm after that play," pointed out Fennewald. "John Knight ran a punt back about 35 or 40 yards down to the Augusta 20 and that should have ignited the whole team. We had two kids go over and slap John on the back. There was nobody getting fired up. There is only so much coaches can do. Each player has to push those buttons. When good things happen, the kids have to get fired up about it."

The Wildcat offense never got untracked either. Three turnovers didn't help. Logan Sorensen started at quarterback, Jason Wohlford played the second quarter as planned but Sorensen finished the game up. But there was little going on. The gridgers fell behind, 32-0, before finally scoring in the 4th quarter. Sorensen ran it in from five yards out for the first TD and NeSmith added a one-yard scoring run as time was winding down.

The Cat line couldn't budge Augusta inside. NeSmith, running at fullback, had only two yards for the game. And when the Orioles found out their line could handle Mulvane's line, they loaded up the outside to effectively shut down the outside game of Sage Swaney and Knight.

"They just overloaded the outside on us trying to force us inside and that effectively shut down Sage and John," said Fennewald.

Sorensen finished with a game best 137 yards in 17 tries on the ground but the Cat aerial game never materialized. Sorensen had just 40 yards of passing, hitting on five of 16 throws.

End Jody Shook was the top tackler with seven tackles and Matt Myers made four solo stops. Shook also had a sack as did Hansen.

"We had some kids play well," said Fennewald. "Matt Myers at cornerback had an excellent game. Jacob Hatfield did a great job blocking on the perimeter and Caleb NeSmith played a great game in the defensive secondary. Our return team also played well."

"Our kids played hard. We won the 4th quarter, which is something positive we can build on. We're working on a week at a time. We want to be 1-0 at the end of this week."

The Wildcats will try and get their first victory in the new league Friday, Sept. 10. The team will travel to Buhler. The Crusaders are 0-1 also, having lost to Wellington, 34-6, in their opener.