

Defense Starts Landslide

Wildcats Rebound With Running Game

And the answer is: night and day!

So what does that have to do with high school football? "That's the difference in our play from last week to Friday night," said Mulvane High School football coach Dave Fennewald. "It was a tale of two different teams, a complete turnaround. The things that were glaringly obvious in our season opener against Augusta fell into place. I'm awfully proud of this team the way they bounced back and with the resiliency they showed."

Mulvane's Wildcats limped to Buhler for their second game of the season Friday night, Sept. 10, but blasted their way past the Crusaders in a 40-27 contest to even their record at 1-1 in the new Ark Valley-Chisholm Trail League Division III.

It didn't take long for the Cats to start "righting the wrongs." Senior linemen Mason Leonard and Joe Correia provided the first big lift on Buhler's 2nd possession when Correia's strong tackle caused a fumble and Leonard scooped it up and rumbled 55 yards for a touchdown.

On Mulvane's next possession, the Cats drove 98 yards in 13 plays to make it 14-0. Quarterback Jason Wohlford busted in from two-yards out to cap the long drive.

"Those two scores was the best medicine for what ailed us," said Fennewald. "We generated some excitement. Last week, when we had kids do something good it was like none of their teammates cared. We talked about playing with more passion this week, getting fired up, and after Mason scored on that run, we had the whole team jumping on his back. We had a lot of team energy."

And the Wildcats had the momentum that carried through the next three quarters.

Four fumble recoveries also helped the cause. The Crusaders put the ball on the ground and Sage Swaney, J.D. Hansen and Kyle Womacks followed Leonard's cue by recovering the Buhler mistakes.

Fennewald said it also helped his young, inexperienced squad that the coaching staff eliminated a lot of plays and went with a simplified game plan. "We looked back on game No. 1 (a 32-14 loss to Augusta at home) and we had too much in for our first game, so we cut that way back and eliminated several formations and limited our passing game," said Fennewald. "That seemed

to give the kids a confidence boost. It also helped that we executed well against Buhler. We always grade everybody on film after each game and everybody graded out a plus. If we do that, we're going to put points on the board."

On defense, though, is where the biggest difference showed up between the first and second games. A week ago, Coach Fennewald pointed out a lot of players stood around and watched their buddies make the tackle. Friday at Buhler, everybody wanted a piece of the action.

"We didn't have one assist that first game so in practice, we worked on having all 11 defensive players end up at the ball," said Fennewald. "We had great effort getting to the ball and gang tackling Friday night

"J.D. Hansen had a great game for us defensively," continued Fennewald. "He hadn't played since his freshman year and I think he's starting to get the rust out of his system. Nose guard Tyler Pudden was our leading tackler and he had a fine game. So did Leonard, both offensively blocking and on defense where he anchored the defensive line."

That helped the Wildcats race out to a 28-7 lead after nearly two quarters of play.

Pudden finished with four tackles and four assists, Hansen had four stops, two assists, Swaney was in on seven stops and Leonard had six.

Offensively, sophomore John Knight sparked the running game that racked up 338 yards on the ground as he went 158 yards in 11 carries, most of the yardage coming behind outstanding blocks from backfield mate Swaney. Caleb NeSmith tacked on 35 yards and quarterback Logan Sorensen reeled off another 110 in 20 carries.

Knight broke loose in the 2nd quarter and scampered 54 yards to make it 21-7 after the Crusaders had scored their first TD. Swaney gathered in a 22-yard aerial from Wohlford just before the half but that set the stage for Buhler to return the kickoff for a score with about two minutes left before intermission.

"Right after that runback, we moved the ball right back to their 20 and ended up throwing an interception to end the half," said Fennewald. "Then we came out and dominated the 3rd quarter. They ran only three offensive plays in that period."

Mulvane's opening drive took over seven minutes off the clock. Wohlford scoring on his second two-yard run.

"I think the big thing is that the kids had a game under their belts and I think they had something to prove," stressed Fennewald. "I think the kids had their pride bruised and had something to prove."

They'll get a chance to prove it again Friday night, Sept. 17, when the Cats hit the road again. They play at Andale. Game time is 7 p.m.

Mulvane	14	14	6	6-40
Buhler	0	14	0	13-27

Touchdowns—Mulvane: Mason Leonard (55, run with fumble), Jason Wohlford 2 (2, 2, runs), John Knight (54, run), Sage Swaney (22, pass from Wohlford), Caleb NeSmith (20, run) Buhler: Ryan Powers (4, run), Brett Williamson 2 (85, kickoff return; 68, pass from Logan Stringer)

Points after touchdown—Mulvane: Jesse Pierce 4 (kick) Buhler: Ryan Powers 2 (run), Tyler Brack (kick).

TEAM STATISTICS

	Mulvane	Buhler
First Downs	22	11
Total Offense	449	234
Yards Rushing	338	121
Yards Passing	111	113
Passes Attempted	12	14
Passes Completed	7	4
Passes Intercepted By	0	1
Punts	4-30 1	4-29 0
Fumbles Lost	0	4
Yards Penalized	90	25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Mulvane—John Knight 11 attempts-158 yards, Caleb NeSmith 6-35, Jason Wohlford 8-27, Logan Sorensen 20-110 Sage Swaney 6-8 Buhler—Ryan Powers 5-44, Landon Stringer 5-10, Matt Gee 10-45, Vern Craig 4-21, Mike Caffrey 3-8

Passing

Mulvane Logan Sorensen 6 completions-11 attempts 89 yards-1 interception-0 TD, Jason Wohlford 1-1-22-0-1 Buhler—Landon Stringer 3-14-113-0-1

Receiving

Mulvane Tyler Oblinger 1 catch-11 yards, John Knight 2-30, Sage Swaney 3-67, Caleb NeSmith 1-13 Buhler—Brett Williamson 1-68, Matt Gee 1-36, Nathan Lund 1-9

Defensive Statistics

Tyler Pudden 4 tackles-4 assists, J.D. Hansen 4-2, Sage Swaney 3-4, Mason Leonard 2-4, Logan Sorensen 2-2, Jason Wohlford 2-2, Joe Correia 2-1, Jody Shook 1-2, Caleb NeSmith 1-2, Kyle Womacks 1-1, John Knight 1-0, Matt Myers 1-0, Jesse Pierce 1-0, Andrew Myers 1-0 Fumble recoveries—Mason Leonard, Sage Swaney, J.D. Hansen Kyle Womacks Blocked kick—Logan Sorensen

Ark Valley-Chisholm Trail League Standings

Division III

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Augusta	2	0	2	0
Rose Hill	1	0	2	0
Wellington	1	0	2	0
Mulvane	1	1	0	2
Buhler	0	2	0	2
El Dorado	0	2	0	2

Division IV

Andover Central	2	0	2	0
Andover	1	0	1	1
Circle	1	0	1	1
Clearwater	1	1	1	1
Kingman	0	2	0	2
Andale	0	2	0	2

Games Friday, Sept. 17

Mulvane at Andale, 7 p.m.
Rose Hill at Augusta, 7
Andover Central at Andover, 7
Buhler at El Dorado, 7
Wellington at Arkansas City, 7
Circle at Kingman, 7
Ulysses at Clearwater, 7

Results Friday, Sept. 10

Mulvane 14, Buhler 27
Rose Hill 33, Circle 0
Wellington 26, Andover 24 (OT)
Augusta 37, El Dorado 0
Clearwater 7, Kingman 0
Andover Central 42, Andale 7