



Mulvane's Sage Swaney (22) streaks upfield after a block by Matt Myers (8) to game some of his 175 against Iola

## Late Iola Score

# Wildcat Grididders

# Own Worst Enemies

It's one of those games you thought you'd won until you looked at the scoreboard.

"One word describes this game: heart-breaking," said Mulvane High School football coach Dave Fennewald. "We ran the ball all over the field but we kept shooting ourselves in the foot with penalties and turnovers."

Fennewald's Wildcats and Iola from the Southeast Kansas League played for the first time ever in Mulvane Friday night, Sept. 24.

See if we ever invite them back! The Mustangs scored on a 4th down and 12-play with 14 seconds left in the game, then made a two-point conversion to win it by a 22-21 count.

The Wildcats were extremely kind hosts. Mulvane handed over four fumbles and two interceptions plus numerous penalties to help the Mustangs on their way to snapping a 15-game losing streak. Iola's last victory came in the 2002 football season.

"What can you say," said Fennewald. "The kids are really hurting. We really didn't play bad football. The difference in the game was penalties and miscues. We had more than 100 yards offense in the first half alone called back because of penalties. And we also had eight miscues where the ball went to the ground. We lost six of them. You can't win with that. And the sad thing is we lost several of those fumbles after long runs."

The one point loss left the Wildcats at 1-3 for the season heading to Circle for another non-conference game Friday night, Oct. 1.

The Cats rushed for more than 500 yards. Only 381 were left on the statistics sheet after penalties. They appeared to be on their way to a victory after rallying in the second half to take the lead by going strictly to the running game.

The Mustangs had a 6-0 lead at intermission, scoring on a 29-yard pass play with 39 seconds left in the 1st half. That came after a questionable pass interference call against Mulvane's secondary when Mulvane's defender was pushed into the receiver by another Iola player. That gave the Mustangs a short field to work with as the seconds ticked away.

The Mustangs led again, 14-7, after taking over inside the Mulvane five-yard line after a poor center snap rolled back to punter Matt Myers. He was smothered on the spot and on the next play, Iola scored to go ahead.

The Wildcats dominated the game in the

second half, however, chewing up one large run after another but couldn't put much scoring together because of mistakes.

"We decided to go strictly with the running game in the second half," said Fennewald. "We didn't have any completions in the first half and had two interceptions. They were just putting too much heat on Logan with their pass rush or when he had the time, our receivers just didn't catch the ball, so we came out just trying to drive the ball down the field. Every time something promising started happening, we'd fumble it. We just missed too many opportunities."

After junior back Sage Swaney ripped off a 70-yarder for a score late in the 3rd quarter (it was a four-play drive), and he also recovered a fumble near midfield, starting a 47-yard drive to paydirt for a 21-14 lead. Minutes later, the Cat defense forced another fumble and Mulvane recovered with around seven minutes left. It should have been the end of the game.

It wasn't. After driving out across the 50, the Cats returned the favor and Iola started the winning march. The Mustangs converted on two fourth down plays during the drive, the last one coming on Mulvane's doorstep with 14 ticks left in the game.

Mulvane finished with an official 381 yards rushing, zero yards in the air. Swaney had his best game ever, running it 11 times for 175 yards. John Knight had 112 yards in eight carries. Fullback Caleb NeSmith ran 55 yards in five tries. Let's see, that's about a 10-yard average each carry for the trio!

The MHS defense also had Swaney at the top of the chart. He had a team-best 12 tackles. He also recovered two fumbles, forced a fumble and blocked an extra point try.

Mike Pudden had 12 tackles, NeSmith had 10, Jason Wohlford had nine stops and J.D. Hansen and Mason Leonard finished with eight apiece. Knight had one interception and one fumble recovery.

Iola	0	6	8	8-22
Mulvane	0	0	14	7-21

Touchdowns: Iola: Marshall Stuckey (25 pass from Tyler Ringwald); Ringwald (2:12 run); Mulvane: Caleb NeSmith (23 run); Sage Swaney (2:30 16 run).  
Points After Touchdown: Iola: Stuckey (4 run pass from Ringwald); Mulvane: Matt Myers (3 kicks).

### TEAM STATISTICS

	Iola	Mulvane
First Downs	18	15
Total Yards	302	381
Yards Rushing	225	381
Yards Passing	74	0
Passes Attempted	13	11
Passes Completed	7	0
Passes Intercepted By	2	3
Punts Average	0:0	1:35
Fumbles Lost	3	4
Yards Penalized	48	51

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

#### Rushing

Iola: Tyler Ringwald (15 carries, 61 yards), Josh Honeycutt (6, 39), David Daughtry (9, 68), Marshall Stuckey (5, 10), John Sigg (4, 10), Mulvane: Sage Swaney (11, 175), John Knight (8, 112), Caleb NeSmith (5, 55), Logan Sorenson (2, 32), Jason Wohlford (3, 7).

#### Passing

Iola: Tyler Ringwald (7 completions, 13 passes, 74 yards, 1 interception), J.D. Mulvane (1 Logan Sorenson, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0).

#### Receiving

Iola: John Sigg (2 receptions, 27 yards), Josh Honeycutt (1, 4), Marshall Stuckey (4, 33), Mulvane: none.

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Sage Swaney (3 tackles, 9 assists), Mike Pudden (1, 1), Caleb NeSmith (3, 7), Jason Wohlford (1, 8), J.D. Hansen (1, 7), Mason Leonard (2, 6), Kyle Womack (0, 7), Lody Shook (1, 5), John Knight (2, 2), Matt Myers (1, 4), Jacob Parker (1, 3), Andrew Myers (0, 1), Joe Correa (1, 1). **Interceptions:** John Knight (1). **Fumble Recoveries:** Sage Swaney (2), John Knight (1). **Blocked Kick:** Sage Swaney.