



Mulvane quarterback Logan Sorensen (11) unloads a pass against Circle. He passed for 154 yards against the Thunderbirds

**Big Plays Kill Cats**

# No Empty Feeling After T-Birds

A popular slogan over the years is "Be all you can be," and Friday night, Oct. 1, at Circle, the Mulvane High School Football Wildcats were.

They were all they could be but that wasn't good enough.

The host Thunderbirds walked away with a 26-14 triumph over the Cats in a intra-divisional game in the Ark Valley-Chisholm Trail League.

"I didn't have that empty feeling after the game like I did against Iola," confessed MHS Coach Dave Fennewald. "We played a good football game. We played a darn good football team with one of the best quarterbacks I've seen while coaching here. I don't think our football team has to be disappointed in their effort because the kids came out and fought for 48 minutes."

The loss left Coach Fennewald's at 1-5 with one game left before the start of District play. Mulvane will entertain El Dorado's Wildcats for the MHS Fall Homecoming game. It starts at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8.

"After the Iola game, we told our kids they were going to have to come together or the ship was going to sink," said Fennewald. "We encouraged them to go out and fight the whole game, just like they did as kids in the back yard, and they did everything we asked at Circle."

And for a half, the Cats were running neck-and-neck with the T-Birds but the game turned on a two critical plays, both going against the Wildcats. After trading

TDs in the opening frame, Circle put together a nice drive and scored with 6:18 left before intermission. On Mulvane's next possession, the Wildcats were driving into T-Bird territory but a fumble bounced like a basketball straight into the arms of a Circle player going the other way and he scored on the 58-yard run to make it 20-7.

The other play was on Circle's 2nd play of the second half when their quarterback dashed for a long TD. "We had just talked about how important it was to come out and get something going in the first five minutes of the second half and he goes and breaks one on a great read and run," said Fennewald.

Two Mulvane fumbles in the 3rd and 4th quarters that halted drives and that didn't help generate much momentum for the Cats. Those fumbles were huge in retrospect. In the final moments after Mulvane put together a line drive with about two minutes left and got inside the Circle five-yard line only to be stopped on downs. So instead of being back within one score, the T-Birds held onto their edge.

"Big plays that they hit all came at critical times, it seemed," said Fennewald. "Like those two fumbles in the second half just took any momentum away. And when we got down inside the five, my quarterback mistook my 'hurry up' signal for a 'same play' signal and we got thrown for a three-yard loss which kind of killed that drive. And that fumble for a touchdown really was a big play, but our kids came right back and scored in the last seconds before the halftime gun."

Mulvane's offense gained 315 yards total offense with quarterback Logan Sorensen on target most of the night, hitting 10 of 18 throws for 154 and no interceptions. That came after an 0-for-11 throwing night against Iola. "We came out trying to get him some easy throws early to build him up and he took it from there."

Another offensive player who had a big night was fullback Caleb NeSmith, who bounced his way for 85 yards in 15 carries. "That was his best night carrying the ball," said Fennewald. "Circle is big inside so we knew we couldn't line up and run up the middle on them so we tried to throw some to loosen them up."

It worked because Matt Myers picked up 77 yards in four catches. NeSmith had two catches for 20 yards and Sage Swaney snared two throws for 36 yards.

The MHS defense gave up yardage but Fennewald strangely felt the unit finally started playing well like a defense. Linebackers J.D. Hansen and Jason Wohlford plugged the interior on rushing attempts and interior linemen Tyler Pudden had 11 tackles.

"Those seniors came up with the kind of game we needed," said Fennewald. "And as a unit, I felt like we tackled a lot better. Jason had several tackles for losses and he was bringing it to the runners. To have a defensive lineman (Pudden) get 11 tackles, that's pure hustle, and he did a great job blocking on offense, his best this season."

Behind NeSmith, Mulvane's ground game was carried by Sorensen with 69 yards rushing and Swaney with another 15.

Wohlford and Hansen had 12 tackles each and after Pudden, NeSmith finished with eight stops. Sorensen had seven and so did John Knight and Jody Shook.

## Ark Valley-Chisholm Trail League Standings

### Division III

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Augusta	4	0	5	0
Wellington	2	0	5	0
Rose Hill	1	1	2	3
Mulvane	1	1	1	4
Buhler	1	3	1	4
El Dorado	0	4	1	4

### Division IV

Andover Central	4	0	5	0
Circle	3	0	4	1
Andale	1	2	2	3
Andover	1	2	2	3
Clearwater	1	2	2	3
Kingman	0	4	0	5

### Games Friday, Oct. 8

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

### Results Friday, Oct. 1

- Circle 26, Mulvane 14
- Augusta 34, Andale 27
- Andover Central 17, Rose Hill 14
- Wellington 41, Kingman 9
- Andover 21, Buhler 13
- El Dorado 13, Goddard 7
- Clearwater 18, Cheney 13

Mulvane	7	7	0	0	14
Circle	6	14	6	0	26

Touchdowns--Mulvane: Logan Sorensen 2 (11 runs), Circle: Tyler AraSmith (2, run), Josh Wittlake (32 run), Ryan Mills (58, run with fumble), Steven Spencer (38, run)

Points After Touchdown--Mulvane: Matt Myers (2 kicks), Circle: Josh Wittlake (2 runs)

### TEAM STATISTICS

	Mulvane	Circle
First Downs	11	12
Total Yards	315	262
Yards Rushing	20	11
Yards Passing	295	251
Passes Attempted	18	11
Passes Completed	10	5
Passes Intercepted By	0	0
Punts/Average	4/22	1/4
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Yards Penalized	65	47

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

#### Rushing

Mulvane--Caleb NeSmith 15 carries 85 yards, Logan Sorensen 17 69, Sage Swaney 5 15, John Knight 3 minus 8. Circle--Josh Wittlake 20 25, Steven Spencer 14 92, Tyler AraSmith 6 13, Ryan Mills 2 41, Christian Trotter 1 4, Matt Barley 2 7.

#### Passing

Mulvane--Logan Sorensen 10 150, 10 passes, 15 attempts, 154 yards, 0 interceptions, 0 TD. Circle--John Knight 5 10 0 0, Circle--Josh Wittlake 3 11 59 1 0.

#### Receiving

Mulvane--Matt Myers 4 receptions 77 yards, Caleb NeSmith 2 20, Tyler Oblinger 1 12, Sage Swaney 2 35, John Knight 1 9. Circle--Josh Griffith 1 30, Ryan Mills 2 59.

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Jason Wohlford 11 tackles, 9 assists, J.D. Hansen 12, Tyler Pudden 2 9, Caleb NeSmith 1 7, Logan Sorensen 2 5, John Knight 1 6, Jody Shook 1 6, Sage Swaney 0 5, Joe Cornea 1 3, Matt Myers 1 1, Chad Blackwell 0 1, Sage Swaney 0 1, Adrian Hays 0 1. Fumble Recovery: Kyle Womack. Interception: Sage Swaney.