

Playoff Hopes Dim

Wildcats Blasted By RH

The rivalry wasn't much of a rivalry this year.

Say "Rose Hill" and the blood pressure starts to rise in Mulvane but Friday night, Oct. 22, the Wildcats must have needed a transfusion and didn't get one.

"Rose Hill came out and hit us in the mouth and we didn't respond," said MHS football coach Dave Fennewald. "It was just 48 minutes of ugliness."

The Rockets blasted off against the Wildcats in the second round of the District 10 three-game series which determines the 4A football playoff qualifiers. The score was 40-7.

The game essentially gave the Rockets one of the two playoff spots barring a complete collapse in their next game against

Belle Plaine. And it pretty much left the Wildcats on the outside looking in. Mulvane (3-5) needs to beat undefeated Wellington (8-0) tonight (Oct. 28) in the regular season finale and hope Rose Hill loses by five points or more.

"We had a lot to play for in the Rose Hill game," pointed out Fennewald. "Why we didn't play to that level, I don't know. That is the million-dollar question. We've had a pretty good history with Rose Hill and we also had a chance to disprove a lot of things about our team. We also could have clinched a playoff spot. But we came out non-enthusiastic, non-combative. We let Rose Hill push us around."

The loss was the second straight against the Rockets, who improved their record to 4-4.

The game was essentially over before halftime. The Rockets scored twice in the first quarter and by intermission held a 34-0 lead. "You have to give Rose Hill credit," admitted Fennewald. "They have some great athletes—Ringwall, Hensley and McRae. We knew that coming into the game. Rose Hill came out and played an aggressive game. We sat back and watched them. I thought we had progressed week after week this season but Friday night, we took a step backwards.

"And it wasn't in just one area, it was in every area. We didn't run hard, we didn't tackle well, we didn't block good. They had a great defensive plan for us. I was very high on our offense but they definitely shut us off. I had us down for about 180 yards and about 100 of it was on our last two drives when the game was already decided. I'll say this, they just out-coached us, too."

The Cats came into the game averaging nearly 27 points a game and they were giving up about 27 points a game, too.

"They whipped us up front, and they also rotated an extra man with our motion, which is something we hadn't seen a lot of this year," said Fennewald. "When we go in motion to one side or the other, we do it to gain a man advantage. Well, they just shift-

ed that direction, rotating their weakside linebacker to the middle of the field and it took away our advantage."

Everything starts up front both on offense and defense. Fennewald said Rose Hill's line strength surprised him. "Their line came off the ball and just smacked us in the mouth," said the Cat coach. "Our kids are great kids but they didn't come out raging. They needed to play with an aggressiveness, and they didn't do that. Physically and that was the bottom line."

The defense couldn't contain the Rockets. RH senior Blake Ringwall racked up 283 yards in 34 rushes and scored four touchdowns. Fennewald said Ringwall was the best back the team has faced this year. "He's fast, he's elusive, he's got size and he runs with power, he's got the whole package," said Fennewald.

Mulvane countered with only 118 yards rushing, their lowest total all season. Quarterback Logan Sorensen ran for 51 yards in 10 carries, fullback Caleb NeSmith had 22 yards but the MHS scatback duo of John Knight and Sage Swaney chalked up only 21 yards offense on the ground.

On defense, linebacker J.D. Hansen led the team with 11 tackles. Sorensen and NeSmith were in on nine stops, Knight had eight and both Tyler Pudden and Jason Wohlford had six stops apiece.

"We've had some great games between the two schools over the years but this wasn't one of them," said Fennewald. "But everything started up front and we had that 'deer in the headlights' look. Our kids have to be emotional and they weren't. The whole coaching staff was befuddled because of the lack of emotion. I mean, we had a lot to play for."

Wellington tonight gives the Cats one last chance, slim as it is. Game time at Lyle Couch Field in Mulvane is 7 p.m.

Mulvane	0	0	0	7-7
Rose Hill	13	21	6	0-40

Touchdowns—Mulvane: John Knight (15, pass from Logan Sorensen); Rose Hill: Blake Ringwall 4 (45.9 runs, 60, pass from Jared McRae); James Hensley (13, run); McRae (30, run).

Points After Touchdown—Mulvane: Matt Myers (1); Rose Hill: Hensley 4 (kicks).

TEAM STATISTICS

	Mulvane	Rose Hill
First Downs	7	15
Total Yards	176	470
Yards Rushing	118	327
Yards Passing	58	83
Passes Attempted	17	5
Passes Completed	3	3
Passes Intercepted By	0	1
Points Average	6.32	2.21
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Yards Penalized	37	65

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Mulvane—John Knight 9 carries, 2 yards; Caleb NeSmith 8, 22; Sage Swaney 9, 19; Jason Wohlford 3, 8; Logan Sorensen 10, 51; Brock Kendall 2, minus 4; Chad Blackwell 1, minus 7. Rose Hill—Blake Ringwall 34, 283; James Hensley 2, 19; Jared McRae 4, 30; Aaron Hensley 5, 13; Josh Hasdon 1, 1; Eric Page 1, minus 7; Brayden Crowe 1, minus 1.

Passing

Mulvane—Logan Sorensen 3, 57, 0 completions, 17 attempts, 58 yards, 0 interceptions, 1 TD; Jason Wohlford 0, 1, 0, 0; Rose Hill—Jared McRae 1, 3, 60, 0, 1; Brayden Crowe 1, 1, 0, 0.

Receiving

Mulvane—Matt Myers 2, 43 yards; John Knight 1, 15; Rose Hill—Blake Ringwall 1, 60; BJ Nussbaum 1, 1.

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

J.D. Hansen 2, 2 tackles, 9 assists; Logan Sorensen 4, 5; Caleb NeSmith 1, 1; John Knight 0, 8; Jason Wohlford 2, 5; Tyler Pudden 1, 6; Matt Myers 3, 3; Mason Leonard 1, 5; Jody Shook 2, 3; Sage Swaney 1, 1; Andrew Myers 0, 3; Matt Carden 0, 2; Colby Price 0, 1; Jacob Parker 0, 2; Tyler Swaney 0, 1; Fumble Recoveries—Caleb NeSmith



Cat tackler John Knight (21) helps bring down Rose Hill's Blake Ringwall

Ark Valley-Chisholm Trail League Football Standings

Division III

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Wellington	4	0	8	0
Augusta	4	1	7	1
Rose Hill	3	2	4	4
Mulvane	2	2	3	5
Buhler	1	4	2	6
El Dorado	0	5	1	7

Division IV

Andover Central	5	0	8	0
Circle	4	1	5	3
Andale	3	2	5	3
Andover	2	3	3	4
Clearwater	1	4	2	6
Kingman	0	5	0	7

✓clinched AVCTL-IV championship

Games Tonight (Oct. 28)

THIRD ROUND-DISTRICT GAMES

Wellington at Mulvane, 7
 Rose Hill at Belle Plaine, 7
 Augusta at Andover Central, 7
 El Dorado at Circle, 7
 Andover at Collegiate
 Haven at Andale, 7
 Clearwater at Buhler, 7
 Kingman at Nickerson, 7

Results Friday, Oct. 22

Rose Hill 40, Mulvane 7
 Wellington 41, Belle Plaine 7
 Andover Central 49, Douglass 7
 Augusta 30, Independence 0
 Collegiate 45, Circle 0
 Andover 42, El Dorado 0
 Andale 28, Clearwater 0
 Buhler 17, Haven 14, 0-1
 Pratt 50, Kingman 14