

# 3 100-Yarders Vs. El Dorado

## Late Arrival For Rushing Explosion

The Mulvane High School football is going into district play with a three-game winning streak and some much-needed momentum.

The Wildcats used a big fourth quarter to pull away for a 42-19 win at El Dorado Friday night, Oct. 7, pushing their record to 2-1 in AVCTL Division III and 4-2 overall. "I thought our guys did a great job on both sides of the ball," said Wildcat head coach Dave Fennewald. "Our offensive line did especially well controlling the line of scrimmage. We didn't throw much because we were having so much success running the ball. That's the best job of executing blocking assignments that we've had from our offensive line all season."

How successful were the 'Cats on the ground? Try 435 rushing yards on 59 attempts, including three separate 100-yard rushers. Despite that kind of offensive production, the game was close for nearly 3 1/2 quarters.

Mulvane got on the board first, finishing off a long first-quarter drive following a fumble recovery by Andrew Myers. Quarterback Ryan Herrig ended the drive with a 10-yard keeper over the right side for a 7-0 lead. The El Dorado 'Cats would tie the game at 7-7 early in the second quarter on a one-yard plunge by fullback Tyson Ball.

With less than two minutes left in the half, Mulvane finished off another drive with a 17-yard touchdown run up the middle by fullback Caleb NeSmith for a 14-7 lead. El Dorado, however, used their passing attack to go 80 yards in just five plays, with Ball again scoring a yard out. The extra point missed, however, leaving Mulvane ahead at the half, 14-13.

"We had a little trouble defensively in the first half with their top receiver," said Fennewald. "He's one of their best athletes, but we were also doing a poor job of tackling. We can't allow opponents to drive on us that easily, especially in our district games."

Mulvane scored again early in the third quarter on a three-yard keeper by Herrig to go back up, 21-13. El Dorado, however, came back again later in the quarter, with Ball going in from the 1 one more time. Mulvane stopped the two-point conversion pass just inches short of the goal line, leaving Mulvane ahead, 21-19, going to the fourth quarter.

After Mulvane gave up the ball on downs, El Dorado drove into Mulvane territory, but Mulvane forced a fourth-down incompleteness to get the ball back. Keeping

the ball on the ground, Mulvane drove back down the field, with NeSmith taking it in from the 4 on second-and-goal for a 28-19 lead. Then the defense really stepped up.

A blitz by freshman linebacker Hulton Tharp resulted in a fumble on the next possession, and it was recovered by Mulvane's Kyle Womacks. Mulvane quickly turned that into a score, with senior John Knight breaking loose for a 38-yard score on fourth-and-two to make it 35-19. Any chance El Dorado may still have had went away on the ensuing kickoff, which was fumbled and recovered once again by Womacks. NeSmith scored his third TD from 13 yards out two plays later, and the game was officially out of reach.

For the game, Knight finished with 174 yards rushing on 13 carries. Herrig had 22 carries for 120 yards while NeSmith had 118 yards on 16 carries. Sage Swaney added 23 yards on eight carries. Herrig only attempted four passes, completing three for 14 yards, the longest being nine yards to Jacob Hatfield.

"It's a nice feeling to have more than one go-to guy offensively," said Fennewald. "Ryan continues to make good reads and decisions on our triple option. Sage didn't carry the ball much, but he's another capable runner, and he blocks very well."

Tharp led Mulvane with 14 tackles while NeSmith, Swaney, and Brit Ericson each had 11. Knight had an interception to go with the

fumble recoveries by Womacks and Myers. "The difference between this year's defense and last year's is like night and day," said Fennewald. "The biggest difference is that they're playing as a team. We've improved so much on defense, mainly because these guys are playing with more passion. We made some adjustments in the second half against El Dorado, and we put more pressure on their quarterback. I was very happy with how physically we played."

It's district time once again, and Mulvane finds themselves in one of tougher Class 4A districts, grouped in with Wellington (5-1), Rose Hill (5-1), and Belle Plaine (3-3). "Rose Hill went to the state final last year," said Fennewald. "Wellington's always tough, and Belle Plaine's three losses have been to Garden Plain, Conway Springs, and Cheney, who are all undefeated. I don't think anyone in this district is going to have it easy over these next three weeks."

The Wildcats will open district play at home Friday night, Oct. 14, against Belle Plaine. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

### KSHSAA Football Districts For 2006-2007

(Class 4A—AVCTL Teams)

District 10—Circle, El Dorado, Council Grove, Chapman

District 11—Andover, Andover Central, Augusta, Rose Hill

District 12—Mulvane, Wellington, Belle Plaine, Douglass

District 13—Buhler, Haven, Larned, Nickerson

District 15—Andale, Clearwater, Kingman, Pratt

Mulvane	7	7	7	21-42
El Dorado	0	13	6	0-19

#### Scoring

Touchdowns—Mulvane: Caleb NeSmith 3 (17, 4, 13, runs), Ryan Herrig 2 (10, 3, runs), John Knight (38, run). El Dorado: Tyson Ball 3 (1, 1, 1, runs).

Points after touchdowns—Mulvane: Brit Ericson 6 (kicks). El Dorado: Jake Currier (kick).

#### TEAM STATISTICS

	Mulvane	El Dorado
First Downs	19	9
Rushing Yards	435	129
Passing Yards	14	197
Total Offense	449	326
Pass Completions	3	13
Pass Attempts	5	30
Passes Intercepted	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	3
Punts/Average	1/28	2/30
Penalties/Yards	5/27	4/21

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

##### Rushing

Mulvane—John Knight 13 carries-174 yards, Ryan Herrig 22-120, Caleb NeSmith 16-118, Sage Swaney 8-23. El Dorado—Tyson Ball 13-60, Josh Bullock 6-48, Alex Ward 5-19, Josh Smith 1-3, Jake Currier 4-(minus 1).

##### Passing

Mulvane—Ryan Herrig 3 completions-4 attempts-14 yards-0 INT-0 TD, Brit Ericson 0-1-0-1-0. El Dorado—Jake Currier 13-30-197-1-0.

##### Receiving

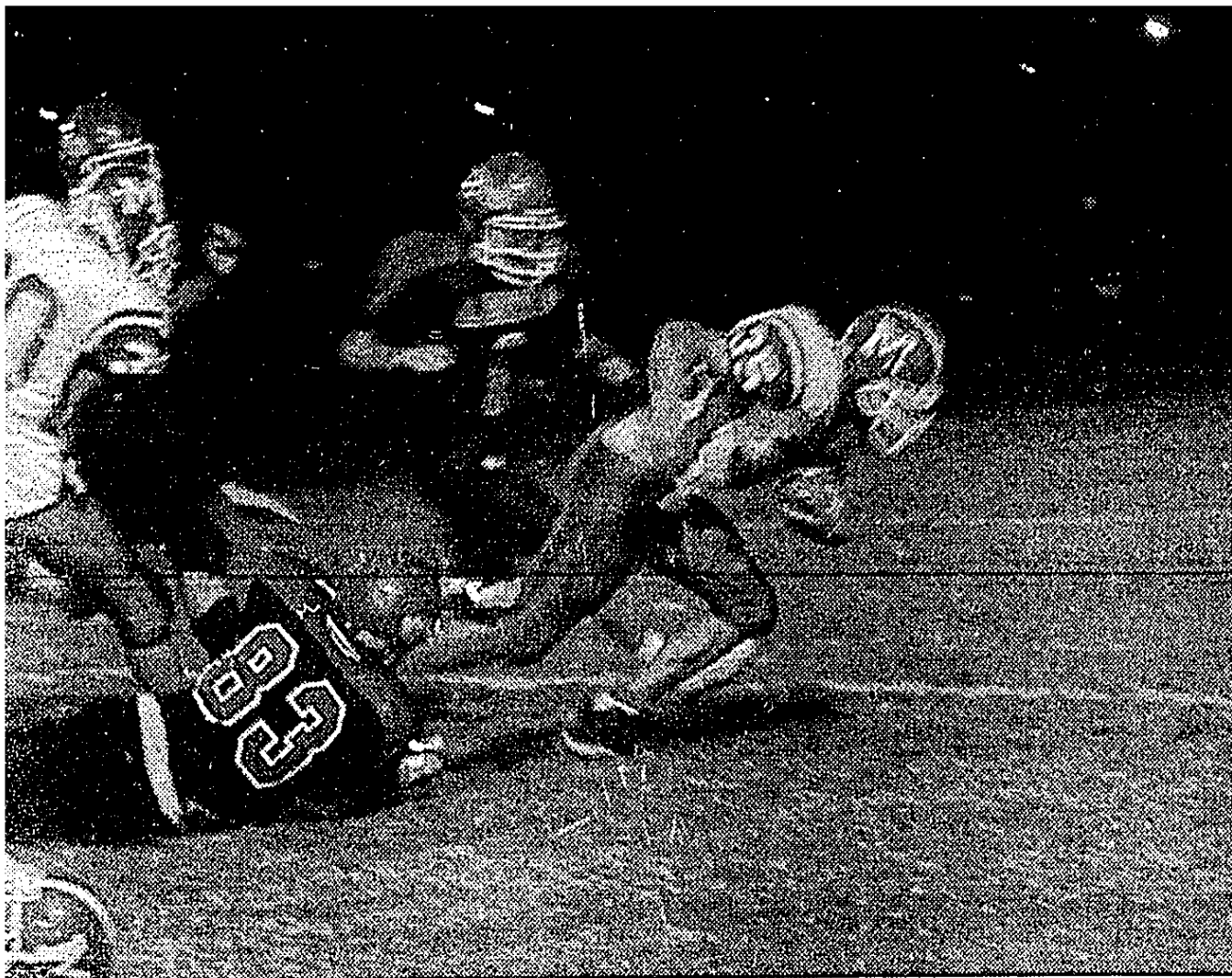
Mulvane—Jacob Hatfield 1 reception-9 yards, Caleb NeSmith 1-4, John Knight 1-1. El Dorado—Alex Ward 7-148, Caleb Sanders 2-28, Tyson Ball 2-11, C.D. Mathews 2-10.

#### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Hulton Tharp 6 tackles-8 assists, Caleb NeSmith 3-8, Brit Ericson 2-9, Sage Swaney 2-9, Syler Swaney 1-5, Ryan Herrig 2-4, Andrew Myers 0-6, John Knight 0-6, Matt Carden 0-3, Jacob Hatfield 0-3, Chad Blackwell 0-2, Kyle Womacks 0-2, Austin Stevens 0-1.

Fumble recovery—Kyle Womacks 2, Andrew Myers.

Interception—John Knight.



Fullback Caleb NeSmith (35) busts through for a gainer against El Dorado after a good block from Jesse Pierce (30)