



Linebacker Hulton Tharp (34) and Ryan Herrig (17) bring down a BP runner in the opening game of District 10 play

Key Game Friday

No District Win Ugly For Long!

Not all football games are fun to watch. Sometimes, you have to win ugly.

The Mulvane High School football team didn't have its best game in their district opener at home against Belle Plaine Friday night, Oct. 14, but it was good enough. The Wildcats used a lot of defense and just enough offense for a 20-7 win. Mulvane is now 5-2 overall, on the season and, more important, 1-0 in district play.

"We got a win without playing very well on offense," said Wildcat head coach Dave Fennewald. "We missed opportunities, and we didn't convert in the red zone like we usually do. We had turnovers, we had penalties, and we missed blocking assignments. But, we did make plays when we had to make plays."

Mulvane's first possession of the game is a good example of how this game went. The 'Cats drove down to the Belle Plaine 12, thanks to a fourth-down completion from Ryan Herrig to Brit Ericson, but a fumble on the next play ended the drive. "Early on, it just didn't seem like the intensity was there," said

Fennewald. "We weren't putting ourselves in position to make plays. That early turnover kind of set the tone for the rest of the game."

Both teams' defenses were the stars of the first half until Mulvane finally broke the ice with less than four minutes left. Two plays after a Herrig touchdown run was called back due to a holding penalty, Herrig scored on a 16-yard keeper for a 7-0 lead. That would be the score at the half.

In the third quarter, the 'Cats tried to open up some breathing room. On third-and-8 from the Dragon 29, Herrig hit John Knight for a 29-yard scoring pass, giving Mulvane a 14-0 lead. "It seemed like Belle Plaine was keying defensively on our outside runners, as well as the fullback," said Fennewald. "Ryan was equal to the task. He ran the ball well, and he threw the ball well when he had to. He's a very shifty runner. That's part of the advantage of running the option. You can key on anyone, but you can never really stop everyone."

Early in the fourth quarter, Mulvane widened the gap with a four-yard TD run by

fullback Caleb NeSmith for a 20-0 lead. After that, though, the Wildcats weren't exactly able to cruise the rest of the way. There were a few anxious moments.

The Dragons broke up the shutout with a one-yard TD run by Taylor Dunavan to make the score 20-7 with less than four minutes left. Then, Belle Plaine recovered an onside kick. After a sack and a penalty, though, Mulvane forced a third-and-39 situation. After a screen pass picked up about 15 yards, Ericson made an outstanding one-handed interception on fourth down to finally put the game out of reach.

The 'Cats had three turnovers and committed seven penalties against Belle Plaine. "Some penalties are aggressive penalties, and you don't mind those as much," said Fennewald. "Most of ours, though, seem to be mental errors caused by a lack of concentration. They seem like little things, but they can add up if you don't take care of those mistakes."

Herrig gained 165 yards on 22 carries and was 4-for-9 passing for 72 yards with one touchdown and one interception. NeSmith had 47 yards on eight carries, Knight had 39 yards on just three carries, and Sage Swaney had 30 yards on seven carries. Along with Knight's touchdown and Ericson's fourth-down conversion, Herrig also completed passes to NeSmith on a screen pass and Syler Swaney on a fake punt. On defense, Hulton Tharp was in on 19 tackles, Ericson had 17, NeSmith had 12, Sage Swaney and Andrew Myers had nine each, and Syler Swaney had eight. Ericson and Syler Swaney each had an interception.

The Wildcats host a key district game Friday night, Oct. 22, against a 6-1 Rose Hill team coming off a 35-20 win at Wellington in their district opener last week. The opening kickoff at Lyle Couch Field is set for 7 p.m.

AVCTL III-IV Football Standings Division III

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

Division IV

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x--Andale	4	0	7	0
Andover Central	4	1	5	2
Andover	3	2	4	3
Kingman	2	3	3	4
Clearwater	1	3	2	5
Circle	0	5	0	7

(x--clinched division title)

Belle Plaine	0	0	0	7-7
Mulvane	0	7	7	6-20

Scoring

Touchdowns—Belle Plaine: Taylor Dunavan (1, run) Mulvane: Ryan Herrig (16, run), John Knight (29, pass from Herrig), Caleb NeSmith (4, run).

Points after touchdowns—Belle Plaine: Bryan (kick) Mulvane: Brit Ericson 2 (kicks)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Belle Plaine	Mulvane
First Downs	10	12
Rushing Yards	197	281
Passing Yards	47	72
Total Offense	244	353
Pass Completions	2	4
Pass Attempts	11	9
Passes Intercepted	2	1
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Punts/Average	3/32	2/37
Penalties/Yards	3/32	7/55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Belle Plaine—Gallhart 6 carries-64 yards, Rands 6-40, Taylor Dunavan 11-33, M. Alonzo 7-31, A. Alonzo 6-21, Cooper Stewart 3-8. Mulvane—Ryan Herrig 22-165, Caleb NeSmith 8-47, John Knight 3-39, Sage Swaney 7-30.

Passing

Belle Plaine—Rands 2 completions-9 attempts-47 yards-2 INT-0 TD. Taylor Dunavan 0-2-0-0-0 Mulvane—Ryan Herrig 4-9-72-1-1

Receiving

Belle Plaine—Jianfortoni 1 reception-36 yards, Gallhart 1-11. Mulvane—John Knight 1-29, Brit Ericson 1-17, Caleb NeSmith 1-17, Syler Swaney 1-9

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Hulton Tharp 4 tackles-15 assists, Brit Ericson 1-16, Caleb NeSmith 3-9, Sage Swaney 0-9, Andrew Myers 2-7, Syler Swaney 2-6, Ryan Herrig 0-4, Chad Blackwell 0-4, Matt Carden 1-3, John Knight 3-0, Kyle Womacks 0-3, Quinton Smith 0-1, Jacob Parker 0-1, Jacob Hatfield 0-2, Austin Stephens 0-1

Interception—Syler Swaney, Brit Ericson

QB Sack—Andrew Myers