

Opening Shutout

'Stoppers' Put Halt To Dorado Offense

The Mulvane High School football team's season got off to an ideal start Friday night, Sept. 1, at El Dorado.

Well, nearly ideal.

Mulvane's Wildcats had 12 penalties for 70 yards and three turnovers, but the defense pitched a shutout against El Dorado's Wildcats, 26-0. The win starts Mulvane out at 1-0 in AVCTL Division III and overall.

"Defensively, I don't think we could've played much better," said MHS head coach Dave Fennewald. "This early in the season, the defense is usually progressing faster than the offense. On offense, we blocked very well, especially on the perimeter, and we were very balanced. Twelve penalties, though, that's simply too many. And most of them were

motion penalties. Plus, we lost three fumbles, and they were all inside their 20-yard line, so we could've scored a lot more. Still, I'm not going to complain about the end result."

Not many people would. Mulvane's defense held El Dorado to 147 yards of total offense, 73 of which came on one running play in the second half. Mulvane had 211 yards rushing and 121 passing.

After a scoreless first quarter, Mulvane opened the scoring early in the second on a 17-yard scoring run by senior quarterback Ryan Herrig. On their next possession, Herrig threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to senior John Knight to make the score 12-0. Mulvane dealt a big blow late in the half when, on fourth-and-goal from the 27, Herrig found Knight again for another TD, and Kyle Ericson's extra point would give Mulvane a 19-0 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, Mulvane extended their lead when sophomore fullback Heldon Tharp scored from five yards out, with Ericson's PAT making it 26-0. From there, the only mystery was whether the defense would keep the shutout intact. It was Mulvane's first shutout since a 34-0 win over Clearwater at the end of the 2003 season.

Of course, there were also those penalties and turnovers. "We're learning some new things this year," said Fennewald. "We're learning some new blocking schemes, and we've added some other things to the game plan. There are still some things that we need to clean up. This was the first time we've run some of these plays at game speed. Once we get used to them, we'll be that much better."

Knight ran for 70 yards to lead a balanced ground attack. Tharp added 67 yards on 15 carries while Herrig ran for 52 yards on 13 rushes. Herrig also had a great pass-

"THE STREAK"

Mulvane vs. Valley Center

| | | |
|------|------------|----------------------|
| 2001 | Mulvane 7 | Valley Center 48 |
| 2000 | Mulvane 15 | Valley Center 40 |
| 1999 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 42 |
| 1998 | Mulvane 14 | Valley Center 42 |
| 1997 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 44 |
| 1996 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 14 |
| 1995 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 17 |
| 1994 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 28 |
| 1993 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 13 |
| 1992 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 22 |
| 1991 | Mulvane 6 | Valley Center 21 |
| 1990 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 8 |
| 1989 | Mulvane 15 | Valley Center 29 |
| 1988 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 40 |
| 1987 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 19 |
| 1986 | Mulvane 0 | Valley Center 14 |
| 1985 | Mulvane 12 | Valley Center 6 (OT) |

ing game, going 11-of-13 for 121 yards and two scores with no interceptions. Knight had five catches for 90 yards while Tharp and Aaron Elston each had three receptions.

"Ryan had a very good game," said Fennewald. "Ryan's very patient, he has quick feet, and he never seems to have any ups and downs. He's such a steady player, and he's always on an even keel."

On defense, Chance Swaney was in on 17 tackles while Jesse Pierce had 15 stops. Tharp and Matt Carden each had eight tackles, Albert Hixson had seven, and Tyler Oblinger and Levi Hein had six apiece. Mulvane got quarterback sacks from Carden, Hein, Andrew Myers, and Kyle Adams. Mulvane also forced three fumbles, with Swaney, Carden, and William Bird making the recoveries.

The Wildcats play their home opener Friday night, Sept. 8, against Valley Center from AVCTL Division II. The opening kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|----|---|------|
| Mulvane | 0 | 19 | 7 | 0-26 |
| El Dorado | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 |

Scoring

Touchdowns—Mulvane: Ryan Herrig (17, run), John Knight 2 (7, 27, passes from Herrig), Heldon Tharp (X, run).

Points after touchdowns—Mulvane: Kyle Ericson 2 (kicks).

TEAM STATISTICS

| | Mulvane | El Dorado |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| First Downs | 12 | 7 |
| Rushing Yards | 211 | 87 |
| Passing Yards | 121 | 65 |
| Total Offense | 332 | 147 |
| Pass Completions | 11 | 7 |
| Pass Attempts | 19 | 16 |
| Passes Intercepted | 0 | 0 |
| Fumbles Lost | 3 | 3 |
| Penalties/Yards | 12/70 | 3/22 |
| Points/Average | 2/17.5 | 3/51 |

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Mulvane—John Knight 4 carries-70 yards, Heldon Tharp 15-67, Ryan Herrig 13-52, Tyler Oblinger 3-22. **El Dorado—**Jake Carter 12-66, Martinez 3-9.

Passing

Mulvane—Ryan Herrig 11 completions-13 attempts-121 yards-0 INT-2 TD. **El Dorado—**Jake Carter 7-16-65-0-0.

Receiving

Mulvane—John Knight 3 receptions-90 yards, Heldon Tharp 3-16, Aaron Elston 3-15. **El Dorado—**Not available.

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Syler Swaney 3 tackles-12 assists, **Jesse Pierce** 1-14, **Heldon Tharp** 2-4, **Matt Carden** 3-5, **Albert Hixson** 1-4, **Tyler Oblinger** 1-5, **Levi Hein** 3-3, **Ryan Herrig** 1-4, **Tyler Springer** 1-3, **William Bird** 0-4, **John Knight** 0-3, **Quinn Smith** 0-3, **Kyle Ericson** 3-2, **Phil Bartles** 3-0, **David Kraft** 1-1, **Danny Schneider** 0-2, **Aaron Elston** 0-1, **Andrew Myers** 1-0, **Kyle Adams** 1-0.

Fumble recovery—Syler Swaney, Matt Carden, William Bird.

QB Rack—Matt Carden, Kyle Adams, Andrew Myers, Levi Hein.

Mulvane

Sports