

Two Trojan Plays Doom Wildcats

In football, the statistics don't lie.

Most of the time.

The Mulvane High School football team gained over twice as many total yards as Andover Friday night, Sept. 22, and had 18 first downs to Andover's two. Yet, two big plays and too many missed opportunities killed the Wildcats in a 14-7 loss at home in Mulvane slipped to 3-1 on the season, 2-1 in AVCTL Division III.

"Statistics don't win ballgames," said MHS head coach Dave Fennewald. "As much as we dominated the stats, the score was the one we didn't. In any game, there's going to be four or five plays that decide the outcome, and those didn't go in our favor this time."

The Wildcats couldn't have started the

game any better. Mulvane received the opening kickoff and drove 65 yards in eight plays. On third-and-goal from the 3-yard line, quarterback Ryan Herrig hit John Knight in the end zone for a touchdown, and Kyle Ericson's extra point gave the 'Cats a quick 7-0 lead.

Later in the quarter, the Wildcats were driving again, and Herrig connected with Knight again for another touchdown. This one, however, was called back due to a holding penalty, and Mulvane would eventually be forced to punt. Herrig's punt was downed at the Andover 9, pinning the Trojans back. That's when Big Play #1 happened.

Andover's Patrick Flanagan took a pitch over the right side, turned the corner, and beat the Mulvane defense down the sideline for a 91-yard touchdown run, tying the score at 7-7 with 19 seconds left in the quarter. It was the first offensive touchdown allowed by Mulvane's first-team defense this season. "I was concerned about how our defense

would react to being scored on," said Fennewald. "Throughout the game, though, our kids never showed any panic or frustration. I was extremely proud of how much composure our players showed."

The game would stay tied at halftime. The 'Cats made a quick defensive stop to start the second half, and the Andover punt left Mulvane at their own 25-yard line. This was when Andover's Big Play #2 jumped up and bit the Wildcats.

On third-and-long, Herrig's deep side-line pass was intercepted by Andover's Michael Bezdek, who returned it 37 yards back down the sideline to give the Trojans a 14-7 lead. There was still plenty of time left, but the Wildcats were now trailing for the first time all season.

"Ryan suffered some type of lower leg injury in the first quarter," said Fennewald. "It really limited what our offense could do. The pass that was intercepted is one of Ryan's best routes, but he couldn't push off his back foot at all. He gave it his all, but by the fourth quarter, it was getting worse, and he just wasn't physically able to do what he wanted out there."

Three times in the second half, the Wildcats marched inside the Andover 20, only to get turned away with no points each time. That included a fourth-and-goal from the 1, from where a QB sneak by Herrig was stuffed by the Andover defense.

The final possession came with just under three minutes left, after a punt left the Wildcats just outside their own 20. With

Herrig hobbled, sophomore backup QB Jordan Gosch came in for the final series. Gosch completed a pass to Knight near mid-field on fourth down. Later, Gosch converted a third down with a completion to Aaron Elston. Knight and Elston each had another catch on the drive, but four straight incompletions, including two drops, finally ended the drive with under a minute to play.

"It was a courageous effort by Jordan," said Fennewald. "The best thing for him was that he didn't have time to think about it. I just told him to go in, and that seemed to actually make it a little easier for him. If Ryan can't go this week, Jordan will step in for us."

Mulvane finished with 317 yards of total offense to Andover's 152. Huldton Tharp carried the ball 27 times for 117 yards.

Fullback Chad Blackwell added 28 yards on six rushes. Herrig was 8-of-14 passing for 81 yards with one touchdown and one interception. On the final drive, Gosch was 4-for-13 for 57 yards. Knight finished with eight catches for 96 yards while Elston had two receptions for 27 yards.

Tharp was the leading tackler with 11 stops while Jesse Pierce had eight tackles and a fumble recovery. Tyler Swaney had six tackles while Tyler Obinger, Albert Hixon, Andrew Myers, and Levi Hein had four each. Hein also added two quarterback sacks.

Mulvane will face another tough league test on the road this week. The Wildcats will take the short trip to Rose Hill Friday night, Sept. 29, for a key AVCTL Division III contest. The opening kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

AVCTL League Football Standings

DIVISION III

Team	League			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Rose Hill	1	0	3	1	0	3
Andover	1	0	3	1	0	3
Augusta	1	0	2	2	2	2
Mulvane	2	1	2	1	2	1
Bullier	1	2	2	2	2	2
El Dorado	0	3	0	4	0	4

DIVISION IV

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

Last Week's Results

Andover 14, Mulvane 7
 Andale 23, Rose Hill 13
 Augusta 35, Parsons 6
 Bullier 48, El Dorado 6
 Willington 28, Andover Central 27
 Circle 19, Kingman 3
 Clearwater 20, Clearwater 7

Games Friday, Sept. 29

Mulvane at Rose Hill
 El Dorado at Andover
 Augusta at Bullier
 Andale at Willington
 Andover Central at Kingman
 Circle at Clearwater

Andover	7	0	7	0-14
Mulvane	7	0	0	0-7

Scoring

Touchdowns—Andover: Patrick Flanagan (91, run), Michael Bezdek (37, interception return). Mulvane: John Knight (3, pass from Ryan Herrig).

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

TEAM STATISTICS

	Andover	Mulvane
First Downs	2	18
Rushing Yards	111	179
Passing Yards	41	138
Total Offense	152	317
Pass Completions	5	12
Pass Attempts	2	80
Passes Intercepted	0	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Penalties/Yards	5/36	8/42
Punt/Average	5/38.4	2/34

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Andover—Patrick Flanagan 4 carries-82 yards, Earl McCall 7-19, Garcia 5-7, Tim Rozzell 4-misses 10). Mulvane—Huldton Tharp 27-117, John Knight 4-19, Ryan Herrig 7-4, Chad Blackwell 6-28, Tyler Obinger 2-11.

Passing

Andover—Tim Rozzell 3 completions-10 attempts-41 yards-0 INT-0 TD. Mulvane—Ryan Herrig 8-14-81-1-1, Jordan Gosch 4-13-37-0-0.

Receiving

Andover—Calvert 2 receptions-45 yards, Bivental 1-1, McCall 1-6, Flanagan 1-missed 5). Mulvane—John Knight 8-96, Aaron Elston 2-27, Tyler Springer 1-13, Huldton Tharp 1-2.

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Huldton Tharp 1 sack-10 assists, Jesse Pierce 1-7, Tyler Swaney 2-4, Levi Hein 2-2, Albert Hixon 0-4, Andrew Myers 0-4, Tyler Obinger 0-4, Matt Carden 1-2, William Bird 1-1, Danny Schneider 1-0, Ryan Herrig 1-0, Kyle Ericson 0-1, John Knight 0-1, Tyler Springer 0-1.

Fumble recovery—Jesse Pierce.

QB Sack—Levi Hein 2.



Wildcat linebacker Huldton Tharp (34) pressures the Goddard quarterback as Mulvane's Andrew Myers (58) rushes from the outside in the Cats' first loss Friday night