

Dinkel fires Victoria to 2-1A sub-state

VICTORIA — Quarterback Kurt Dinkel threw a pair of touchdown passes and scored another Saturday night to lead the surprising Victoria Knights to a 38-12 victory over Johnson-Stanton County in the second round of the Class 2-1A football playoffs.

The victory improved Victoria's record to 7-4 and moved the Mid-Continent League team into Friday night's semifinals at home against unbeaten Caldwell.

Mitch Berns, who scored a pair of TDs himself, put Victoria on top in the second quarter when he scored from five yards out. Dinkel then scored on a 10-yard run and Berns added a 42-yard run to make it 22-0 at halftime.

Dinkel then threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Carl Dinkel and a 17-yard strike to Jeff Kisner before Johnson scored two TDs in the final quarter. Johnson ended its season at 8-3.

	Jo	Vic
First downs	4	15
Rushes-yards	24-156	52-284
Passing yards	26	105
Comp-Att-Int	4-10-0	4-4-0
Punts-Avg	6-29	3-22
Penalties-yards	5-40	5-40
Fumble-lost	3-2	3-1

Scoring Summary

Johnson 0 0 0 12 — 12
Victoria 0 22 16 0 — 38

V — Berns 5 yd. run (Berns run).
V — K. Dinkel 10 yd. run (K. Dinkel run).
V — Berns 42 yd. run (run failed).
V — C. Dinkel 34 yd. pass from K. Dinkel (Berns run).
J — Kisner 17 yd. pass from K. Dinkel (D. Dinkel run).
J — Dorrell 74 yd. run (run failed).
J — Zimmerman 10 yd. pass from Hurlbut (run failed).

North Central falls in Eight-Man II

DENTON — No. 1-ranked Denton-Midway buried North Central, 54-19, Saturday night in the second round of the Eight-Man II football playoffs.

The victory boosted the Eagles to 10-0 and into next Friday's semifinal matchup at home against Tescott. North Central ended its season at 8-3.

Midway rushed for 424 yards and added 137 through the air for 561 yards total offense. Quarterback Todd Caudle led the onslaught with two touchdown passes and a pair of TD runs. Jeff Godfrey added two touchdown runs for Midway, which won the Eight-Man I state title last year.

North Central quarterback Travis Graves threw a pair of touchdown passes — 25 yards to Matt Miller and 10 to Tim Becker.

	NC	DM
Rushes-yards	31-76	55-424
Passing yards	163	137
Comp-Att-Int	11-25-2	9-19-0
Penalties-yards	6-55	5-40
Fumble-lost	2-1	2-1

Scoring Summary

North Central 0 7 0 12 — 19
Denton-Midway 16 12 12 14 — 54

DM — Becker 59 yd. run (N. Caudle pass from T. Caudle).
DM — T. Caudle 41 yd. run (T. Caudle run).
DM — Godfrey 34 yd. run (run failed).
DM — N. Caudle 14 yd. pass from T. Caudle (run failed).
NC — Miller 25 yd. pass from Groves (Miller kick).
DM — T. Caudle 20 yd. run (run failed).
DM — Lemke 7 yd. run (run failed).
NC — Morey 1 yd. run (run failed).
DM — Becker 10 yd. pass from T. Caudle (Becker pass from Caudle).
NC — Tuma 13 yd. pass from Groves (pass failed).
DM — Godfrey 3 yd. run (pass failed).

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Defense gets Eagles to sub-state

By TIM HOSTETTER
Sports Writer

CLYDE — One departing spectator summed up Saturday night's Hillsboro-Clifton-Clyde Class 3A regional football game perfectly: "They don't come much better."

In a classic defensive game, the top-ranked Clifton-Clyde Eagles kept their record perfect with a thrilling 20-14 triple overtime victory over Hillsboro's Trojans.

The win moved the Eagles into sub-state play for the second straight year against Plainville.

The Trojans of the Mid-Kansas League earned respect from their opponents in stopping the Eagles' single-wing offense.

Clifton-Clyde managed just 148 rushing yards on 50 attempts and had just seven first downs.

"Their defense really played well," said Clifton-Clyde head coach Bernard Debes, whose team is now 10-0. "They put 11 men up on the line of scrimmage and made it tough to run against."

"We didn't get much of a chance to prepare for them," said Hillsboro head coach Don Penner. "We didn't get to go outside Thursday because of the weather. We just had the plays and went over them with our scout team. I thought our kids played well. Our defense has been tough all season (yielding only 45 yards a game on the ground). It's tough to lose a game like this."

The game wasn't filled with the offense the score indicates.

Clifton-Clyde scored first midway through the first quarter after Hillsboro running back Todd Arnold fumbled the ball away on his team's first play from scrimmage.

HILLSBORO VS. CLIFTON-CLYDE GAME IN STATS

	Hills	CC
First downs	12	7
Rushes-yards	45-172	50-148
Passing yards	69	37
Comp-Att-Int	4-10-3	4-10-3
Fumbles-lost	3-3	1-1
Penalties	1-9	4-20
Punts-avg	4-39.5	8-39.3

Individual Statistics

RUSHING — Hillsboro: Arnold 28-112, Kroeker 5-29, Funk 8-16, Heide 3-10, Unruh 1-5. Clifton-Clyde: J. Branfort 18-58, Tremblay 19-63, Bechard 11-19, A. Branfort 1-5, Siefert 1-3.

PASSING — Hillsboro: Heide 4-10-3-69. Clifton-Clyde: Bechard 4-10-1-37.

RECEIVING — Hillsboro: Vojnar 2-34, Kroeker 1-21, Loewen 1-14. Clifton-Clyde: Newell 2-19, Anderson 2-18.

PUNTING — Hillsboro: Loewen 4-39.5. Clifton-Clyde: Newell 8-39.3.

Scoring Summary

Hillsboro 0 8 0 0 0 — 14
Clifton-Clyde 8 0 6 0 0 6 — 20

CC — Newell 6 yd. pass from Bechard (J. Branfort run).
H — Kroeker 21 yd. pass from Heide (Kroeker pass from Vojnar).
H — Funk 1 yd. run (run failed).
CC — J. Branfort 10 yd. run (run failed).
CC — Tremblay 3 yd. run (no point).

The Eagles took over on the HHS 28 and scored six plays later when quarterback Matt Bechard hit Arlan Newell with a 6-yard TD pass on fourth down.

"That hurt because we held them after that," Penner said. "When you give a team like them the ball down that far, you expect them to score. We got the momentum back, though, when we scored right before half."

Using its best drive of the night, the Trojans marched 65 yards in the last three minutes of the first half to score.

Quarterback Kendall Heide connected with Jeff Kroeker on a 21-yard TD pass to pull the Trojans to within two. Kroeker then caught the pass for two points from kicker Jason Vajnar.

The second half was all defense.

The Eagles, who punted a season-high eight times, failed to cross midfield in the third quarter.

Hillsboro's best chance to score in the second half came on its first possession of the half when it drove to the Eagles' 19. But on fourth and three, Heide was stopped short of the first down and Clifton-Clyde took over.

It looked as if the Trojans might pull the game out in the final minute.

Heide moved his team from its own 8 to the Eagles' 32 with 15 second left, but Arnold fumbled the ball away and the Eagles ran out the clock to force overtime.

"We were trying to get in field goal range for Vajnar because he has kicked a couple of 55-yarders in practice," Penner said.

Hillsboro scored in three plays to stop the first overtime. Arnold, who rushed for a game-high 112 yards on 28 carries, got the ball to the 1 on two plays. Fullback Arlin Funk then scored. Arnold then failed on the two-pointer.

Jason Branfort scored on the Eagles' first play on a sweep. The same play failed on the two-point conversion.

Clifton-Clyde got the ball first in the second overtime and Bechard had a second down pass intercepted by Arnold.

Penner then called for a field goal on his team's first play, but David Kliewer's kick sailed wide right.

Arnold fumbled the ball away on the Trojans' first play in the third overtime.

The Eagles then took advantage and scored when Tremblay bulled over on third down.

Playoff scoreboard

CLASS 4A
Saturday's Regional Results
Shownee-Aquinas 14, Archison-Maur Hill 7
Fredonia 48, Spring Hill 6
Mulvane 15, Clay Center 14
Norton 35, Larned 7

Sub-State Pairings
Nov. 22
Shownee-Aquinas (10-1) at Fredonia (9-2)
Mulvane (11-0) at Norton (11-0)

CLASS 3A
Saturday's Regional Results
Wellsville 6, Nemaha Valley 6
Sedan 41, Humboldt 14
Clifton-Clyde 20, Hillsboro 14 (3ot)
Plainville 35, Lyons 7

Sub-State Pairings
Nov. 22
Sedan (8-3) at Wellsville (9-2)

Plainville (10-1) at Clifton-Clyde (10-0)

CLASS 2A
Saturday's Regional Results
Centralia 31, Highland 6
Pittsburg-Colgan 45, Pomona 8
Caldwell 14, Clarlin 7 (ot)
Victoria 38, Johnson 12

Sub-State Pairings
Nov. 22
Pittsburg-Colgan (11-0) at Centralia (10-0)
Caldwell (11-0) at Victoria (7-4)

EIGHT-MAN DIVISION II
Saturday's Regional Results
Denton-Midway 54, North Central 19
Tescott 73, Haviland 14
Lenora 24, Agra-Eastern Heights 2
Rolla 39, Barzine 22

Sub-State Pairings
Nov. 22
Tescott (10-0) at Denton-Midway (10-0)
Lenora (9-1) at Rolla (10-0)

Clay Center loses on last-minute drive

By STEPHEN WHITE
Sports Writer

CLAY CENTER — Gut-wrenching.

Not once, but two years in a row. One can only wonder what unpardonable sin deserves the tragic treatment levied upon the Clay Center football team the last two years.

For the second year in a row, Clay Center's playoff fortunes were dealt the same morbid blow — as an opponent mounted a last-minute drive to steal victory from the clutches of defeat in the regionals of Class 4A state playoffs.

One year ago, Clay Center led eventual state champion Andover 16-14 only to lose in the final six seconds as Andover drove 94 yards in four minutes to snatch a 21-16 triumph.

Saturday, again in a Class 4A regional playoff, Clay Center led undefeated and second-ranked Mulvane 14-8 with 1:19 to play, only to lose in the final second, 15-14.

"I guess it just wasn't meant to be," said a remarkably composed Tiger coach Larry Wiemers, standing in a corner of a bitterly-disheartened Clay Center locker room.

"I'm not going to commit hari-cari. I'm all right, but it's damn tough to look at these kids in the locker room. It hurts them so much."

After being whipped up and down the field in the first half, Clay Center turned an about-face to erase an 8-0 deficit in the second half.

Mulvane's inability to score twice after driving into Tiger territory in the first 10 minutes — once to the 8-yard line — allowed Clay Center to stay in the ball game.

And the Tigers responded with second-half domination which mirrored the way Mulvane had dominated the first half.

Marching 75 yards in 10 plays, Clay Center scored less than four minutes into the second half as senior Ronnie Wright bulled into the end zone from three yards out.

The Tigers still trailed 8-6 after a two-point conversion pass fell incomplete.

But five minutes later, the Tigers mounted another touchdown drive to take the lead. The second drive took 14 plays and covered 77 yards. Speedy senior receiver Cliff Wil-

CLAY CENTER VS. MULVANE GAME IN STATS

	Mul	CC
First downs	19	13
Rushes-yards	45-140	36-133
Passing yards	109	101
Comp-Att-Int	9-15-1	7-13-1
Punts-Avg	3-38.7	4-33.8
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-yards	0	1-15

Individual Statistics

RUSHING — Mulvane: Belew 26-143, Workman 4-8, Shook 3-6, Snow 12-3. Clay Center: Wright 13-60, Burger 14-59, Wiemers 9-14.

PASSING — Mulvane: Snow 9-15-1-109. Clay Center: Wiemers 7-13-1-101.

RECEIVING — Mulvane: Hicks 4-61, Shook 2-21, Stump 1-16, Cusick 1-11, Belew 1-(-1). Clay Center: Williams 6-94, Wright 1-7.

PUNTING — Mulvane: Hicks 3-38.7. Clay Center: Wiemers 4-33.8.

Scoring Summary

Mulvane 0 8 0 7 — 15
Clay Center 0 0 6 8 — 14

M — Snow 3 yd. run (Hicks pass from Snow).
CC — Wright 3 yd. run (run failed).
CC — Williams 7 yd. pass from Wiemers (Wiemers run).
M — Stump 16 yd. pass from Snow (Stump kick).

liams, who caught six passes for 94 yards, capped the drive on a 7-yard TD pass from senior quarterback David Wiemers, who threw for 101 yards. Wiemers added a two-point conversion run to put Clay Center up 14-8.

"I really thought with three minutes left, we had it," Coach Wiemers said.

That's because with 3:15 to play, Wright broke four tackles to gain 13 yards and a critical first down near midfield.

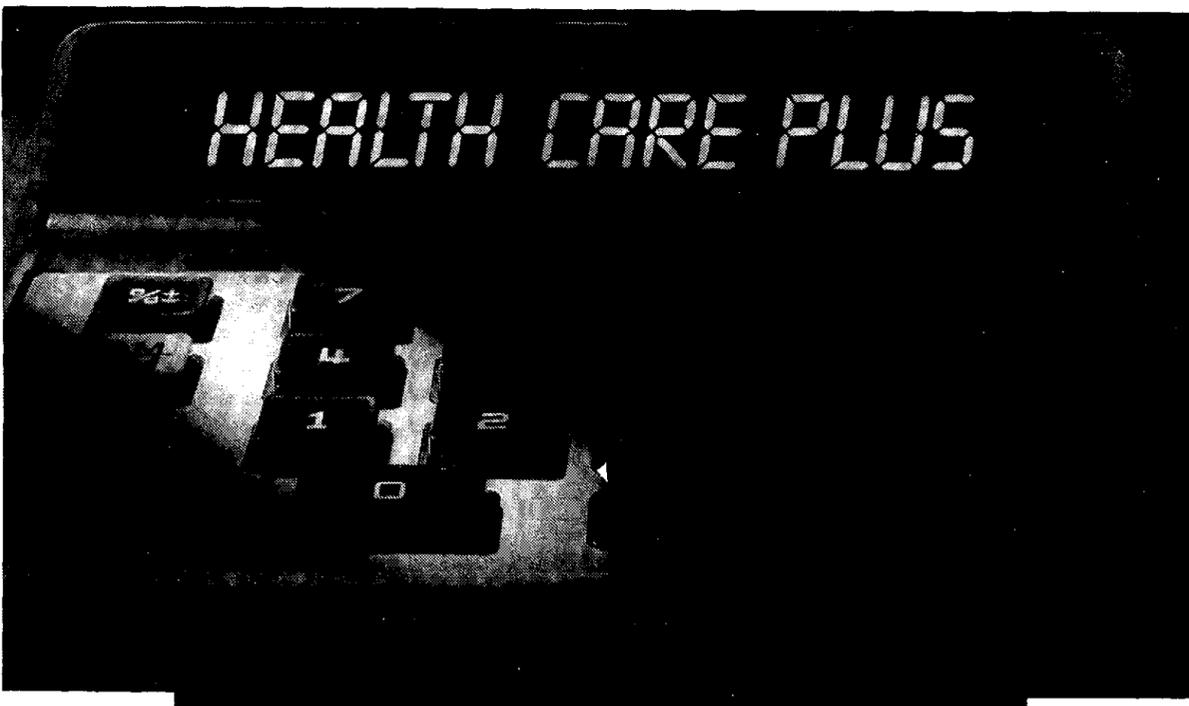
Clay Center could have sewed up the victory with one more first down, but Mulvane forced the Tigers to punt from Mulvane's 46 with 1:36 remaining.

When Kris Withrow returned David Wiemers' 31-yard punt 31 yards, the Wildcats had one flickering chance — 54 yards away from the end zone with one timeout and 1:19 left.

Passes of 10 and 11 yards moved the Wildcats to the Tiger 33, and a diving reception by Curtis Hicks at the Tiger 16 put the Wildcats in scoring range with 0:09 to play.

Snow scrambled from one side of the field to the other before flinging the ball toward the far side of the end zone, where Stump stood alone beside a fallen Tiger defender.

The victory vaulted Mulvane (11-0 and enjoying its first-ever playoff appearance) into a sub-state match Friday at top-ranked Norton.



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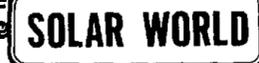
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