

# Mavs hang on for first EHS win in 10 years

## 7-0 start best since 1977; games with ESD, Kinkaid awaits



Senior John Avery Foutch riles up the student section late in the fourth quarter.

PHOTO | Lexi Guo

By Wilson Bailey

The undefeated Mavs had reason for optimism heading into their Oct. 8 matchup with Episcopal, even though they had not beaten their cross-town rivals in ten years.

With just over five minutes remaining in the 4th quarter, the Mavs were down 20-17, and the Knights had the ball on the Mavs 5-yard-line.

With pressure from defensive end Blake Masterson, the Mavs flushed Episcopal quarterback Tres Organ out of the pocket and into a dangerous sideline throw.

"I knew that if I just contained him on that play, then I would force a bad decision," Masterson said.

Safety Cade McMillan reeled in the interception, toe-tapping one foot in-bounds.

"I held that ball like a baby, but I had no idea the gravity of the moment," McMillan said. "It wasn't until I got off the field and realized, 'Dang, we have the ball. Now we can do something with it. We can come back and we win this game.'"

According to multiple teammates, McMillan does not have a "great reputation" for catching the ball.

"We always make jokes, telling him that he has no hands," freshman wide receiver and running back Cole Allen said. "But in the game, it really shined through how much work he's been putting in."

McMillan's play on the 2-yard-line set up a go-ahead 98-yard drive, culminating in a 38-yard Allen touchdown run.

"We ran a play that had never worked before," Allen said. "This time, the blockers gave me an opening, and I just ran through it."

On the ensuing kickoff, kicker Caden Perry pinned the Knights at their own 10-yard-line, with McMillan making the tackle.

McMillan sensed that the Knights "folded" at that moment.

"They had just turned the ball over at the 2-yard-line and conceded a touchdown," McMillan said. "It was devastating for them."

The Knights still had over two minutes to respond, but they were unable to execute, resulting in a 24-20 Mavs victory.

"They were really deflated," Perry said. "It felt like they were giving up."

Blake Masterson made the key second-down sack, setting up two game-clinching Knight incompletions.

"I kind of sped around their lineman, and once I got ahold of their quarterback, it was over," Blake said. "I looked at the crowd, and they were being so loud – it was amazing."

Quarterback John Perdue led the Mavs through the air, completing 7 of 12 pass attempts for 123 yards and 20 carries for 61 yards, including a 1-yard touchdown in the 2nd quarter.

Before he exited the game with a foot injury, captain Miles Masterson rushed 12 times for 46 yards.

Allen contributed 128 all-purpose yards, rushing for 63 yards on just four carries and 65 yards on four receptions.

The Mavs 7-0 start (3-0 in SPC) is their best since 1977, but McMillan says they are still "taking it one game a time" with key matchups against two of the toughest SPC teams: Episcopal School of Dallas (8-0, 3-0) and Kinkaid (6-2, 2-1).

The game began auspiciously enough, with the Mavs taking the opening kick and driving into field goal range, but a failed 4th down conversion ended the drive.

After a scoreless first quarter, Perdue put the Mavs on the board with a quarterback sneak.

"It was a matter of will," Perdue said. "They know what's coming, so it's about taking something from them, getting that yard or foot."

The Knights struck back with a touchdown of their own, but cornerback Jack McGarry blocked the extra point attempt.

"I had a feeling I would have an opening because they had to either block an intimidating 6-foot-3 guy in Thane [Stark], or me," McGarry said. "My feet got caught on somebody, so I blocked the ball with my face, not my arms."

McGarry's face block gave the team a morale boost.

"Because of the block, we were able to go into the locker room ahead at halftime," McGarry said. "In close games, missing extra points comes back to haunt teams."

On the next drive, Miles Masterson responded with a 3-yard rushing touchdown.

"We joke that John likes to steal our fantasy football points," Miles said.

"It was nice I got that opportunity at the goal line."

The Knights regained the momentum by adding another touchdown with 28 seconds remaining in the half. Heading into the locker room, the Knights only trailed 14-13.

"The coaches were pretty livid at halftime," McMillan said. "We made a lot of errors on defense when the quarterback rolled out the pocket. He was pretty shifty."

Offensively, the team used the halftime break to focus on fixing their unforced errors.

"We had a pre-snap penalty where our guys weren't set," Miles said. "That's inexcusable."

After a defensive stop early in the third quarter, Perry drilled a 37-yard field goal to give the Mavs a 17-13 lead.

"Having a kicker that's automatic like Caden means that we know that we're coming away with points most drives," McGarry said.

Midway through the third quarter, Miles Masterson went down with an ankle injury.

"Miles was having arguably the best game of his career," McGarry said. "We knew that it was the next man up."

Miles knew immediately that he would not return.

"When I got to the sideline, I talked to Cole and told him that he had to go out and make a big play – and he did," Miles said.

After conceding another touchdown late in the third quarter to fall behind 20-17, the Mavs failed to score, and watched the Knights move down the field. With just a few minutes left, Episcopal threatened to put the game out of reach.

Fortunately, the Mavs were defending the north end zone.

"In my time on varsity, there have been a few game-winning plays made at the north end zone," Miles said. "There's something magical about it."

McMillan's goal-line interception changed everything, and led to the eventual game-winning drive.

The Mavs defeated St. Mark's 49-13 on Friday, Oct. 15 and will next play the Episcopal School of Dallas on Friday, Oct. 22.



Senior Miles Masterson evades the Knights' defense. Despite going down with a foot injury in the third quarter, Masterson added a rushing touchdown.

PHOTO | Lexi Guo