Mavs hang on for first EHS win in 10 years
7-0 start best since 1977; games with ESD, Kinkaid awaits

By Wilson Bailey

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

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

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, ‘Damn, 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.

“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.

“We had a feeling we would have an opening because they had to either block an intimidating 6-foot-3 guy in Thane Perdue or I blocked the ball with my face, not my arms,” McMillan’s goal-line interception changed everything, moving the Mavs 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 a failed 4th down conversion ended the drive.

Having a kicker that’s automatic like Caden means that we know that we’re coming away with points most drives,” McCoy said.

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

“Miles was having arguably the best game of his career,” McCoy 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.