



Photo By Ashley Cook

BATTLE OF THE CATS

Wildcat Drake Ewing, 11, tries to avoid a DeSoto Wildcat defender earlier in the year. Ewing is one of the Holton Wildcats' top running backs. Holton won that game on Friday, August 31, by a score of 52-0.

Wildcat football starts strong with 4-0 record, big goals

The Holton Wildcat football team is off to a roaring start to this football season. The Wildcats have compiled a 4-0 start to the young football season, all the wins being by at least 30 points.

"We've had a good mindset to this year's team," Ryan Haefke, 12, said. "We just stay focused on our first goal, which is to win league, and we're looking at that before we look at anything else."

The Wildcats started off the year facing DeSoto for the first time. The Wildcats took a 21-0 lead into halftime, and then never looked back, defeating the fellow Wildcats, 52-0.

Junior Drake Ewing led the way with 198 yards on 13 carries, with two other Wildcats having 50 or more yards.

"We played a lot better in the second half," Tyler Burdiek, 12, said. "We were just glad to get the first one out of the way."

Holton then had their second game on the road, this time facing the Santa Fe Trail Chargers. The Chargers scored on the first play from scrimmage, taking a 7-0 lead. They didn't hold it for long, though, as Holton dominated throughout the rest of the game, winning 66-14. Senior Jaxon Wright led the way for the Wildcats, rushing for 74 yards, while Chase Wilson added 68 and Cameron Karn rushed for 58.

"We were surprised at how they came out so

fast," Haefke said. "We just stayed calm and played fairly well for the rest of the game."

The Wildcats then faced a tough opponent for the first game on the road, in the form of the Sabetha Bluejays.

The 'Cats jumped out to a 28-0 halftime lead, winning 42-8, for the second league win. Trent Tanking led the way for the 'Cats, rushing for 113 yards on just seven carries.

"We knew they would come out strong," Burdiek said. "They are always a team that will play one of their best games against Holton."

The 'Cats then found their next game to be a battle of the undefeateds, pitting 3-0 Hiawatha against 3-0 Holton. Holton proved to be the superior opponent though, as they led throughout the game, with the final tally being 61-14.

"They had said some stuff earlier in the week that we didn't like," Burdiek said. "We were just really excited to play these guys and it showed on the field."

The Wildcats will play again this Friday, against the 1-3 Perry-Leocompton Kaws. All four of the Kaws games have been decided by 20 points or less, including a five point defeat of Santa Fe Trail.

"They do some different things," Haefke said. "We'll just have to be prepared for them and hopefully we come out on top."

By Zach Porter, Sports Editor



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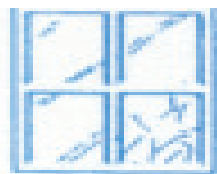
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