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• Daily Leader

Kismet – In a game plagued by penalties and interceptions, the Southwestern Heights Mustangs fell to the Holcomb Longhorns 27-8 on Friday night.

The Longhorns drove early into Mustang territory at the 49-yard line with a first down. The tenacious Mustang defense built a fortress with sophomore Rogelio Martinez's quarterback sack for a loss of 6 yards. Going for the conversion on fourth down, Holcomb was stopped in their tracks by Mustang senior Ethan Davis.

Even with good field position at their own 45-yard line, the Mustang offense could not take advantage. After two carries and a pick up of a first down at the 35-yard line, the Mustangs were stalled by the Longhorn defense.

Starting at their own 24-yard line, the next time-consuming drive by the Longhorns resulted in a rushing touchdown by Jose Munoz from the 4-yard line at 1:17 in the first. With the successful PAT, the Longhorns led the first quarter 7-0.

In the second quarter, the second possession by the Mustangs actually showed negative yardage. Plagued by penalties with a delay of game and holding call, the Mustangs were forced to punt from their 18-yard line.

Setting up their offense with good field position in Mustang territory. In only one play, the Mustangs forced a fumble and gave the ball back to their offense on their own 31-yard line. Unable to capitalize, the Mustang offense went four and out.

With Holcomb gaining field advantage, the Southwestern Heights defense once again came to the rescue. At the 16-yard line, Mustang sophomore Ben Johnsrud intercepted a pass and ran for 28 yards.

Giving the ball back to the Mustangs, the Holcomb Longhorns defense would not go away quietly into the night. Going for it on fourth and 13, the Mustangs opted for a long pass. The Longhorns intercepted the ball and ran 44 yards for a touchdown. With the good PAT, the score increased the Longhorn lead 14-0.

Starting out slow after receiving the kick-off, the Mustangs went three and out in their first possession of the third quarter. The Holcomb Longhorns were forced to do the same after a huge fourth down tackle for a loss by sophomore Josh Winkler. The only score in the third was earned by Longhorn quarterback Logan Singhisen at 2:47 in a first and goal situation. Without the PAT, the third quarter ended 20-0 with the Longhorn advantage.

With the offense unable to take advantage, the ball went right back to the Longhorns. With a 27-0 deficit, the Mustangs were determined not to give the Longhorn defense a vaulted shut-out.

At 1:11 in the fourth, the Mustangs capitalized on their passing game and sent a touchdown into the end zone in the hands of senior Taylor Collins. With the two-point conversion ran in by junior Ruben Chavez, the game ended 27-8.

The Southwestern Heights Mustangs will try to stampede against the Hugoton Eagles next Friday night.