



Parkland backup quarterback Tony Covington finds yardage on a roll-out. Covington hooked up with teammate Anthony Wardlow on a 69-yard touchdown pass on Covington's first passing attempt of the night (photo by James Parker).

Prep Spotlight

Wardlow lifts Mustangs to 21-6 victory over Eagles

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Parkland lived up to preseason predictions as the county's finest high school football team by drubbing crosstown rival East Forsyth 21-7 last Friday night at East's stadium.

Anthony Wardlow led the fired-up Mustangs, scoring three second-quarter touchdowns against the Eagles, who were ranked ninth in the state 4-A poll going into the game. The Mustang defense also played a superb game, dominating the line of scrimmage throughout the night.

Parkland, which traditionally sports a conservative, running offense under Coach Homer Thompson, surprised East by unleashing a medium-range passing attack which led to several long gains and two of the Mustangs' three touchdowns.

"Everybody's always saying that we can't pass the football," said Thompson after witnessing the Mustang aerial attack. "But we've been working hard on throwing the ball and it worked well for us tonight."

half, Wardlow took a pass over the middle from reserve quarterback Tony Covington at mid-field, broke two tackles and outprinted his opponents into the end zone.

"I can't say enough about the way Wardlow played," said Thompson. "He's usually the blocker for our other guys."

Wardlow, a 5-11, 165-pound senior, said although he was surprised to get the football when he did, he was confident the Mustangs' line would open the holes on his touchdown runs.

"I was shocked to get the ball when we were so close to the goal line," said Wardlow. "I only average about four carries a game, so I didn't think I would be getting it. But the plays were there. The offensive line did a good job and all I had to do was run."

Another key to the Mustang outburst, according to both Wardlow and Thompson, is the rivalry between East and Parkland.

"We were ready for them (East Forsyth)," said Wardlow. "It's a good rivalry and we were pumped."

well on the ground in the second half," said Thompson. "We found some holes in their secondary in the first half, and in the second half we got some holes to run in."

Jackson and Martin helped keep the Mustangs' momentum going in the second half with the pair reeling off huge chunks of yardage. Despite the fact that the Mustangs didn't score any points in the final half, they moved the ball well and everyone on the team got to play.

With the win, the Mustangs' record moved to 2-1 while the Eagles, losing for the first time in '84, fell to 2-1.

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-- Parkland Coach Homer Thompson

"Coach (Tom) Muse has to get most of the credit for the way we threw the ball," Thompson said. "He's been working on the passing game for the past two weeks and trying to convince me that we should throw the ball more."

The Mustangs, coming off a two-week layoff, looked equally as effective on defense, thanks to strong pressure from linebacker Bobby Scrivens and defensive end Jacques Holiday.

"I thought our guys tackled well on defense," said Thompson. "Holiday and (Clay) Bryan were in the East backfield all game."

Yet, it was the play of Wardlow, a senior halfback who normally does the blocking for tailbacks Donald Jackson and Kennard Martin, that stood out most in the Mustangs' win.

Wardlow got the Mustangs on the scoreboard with nearly 11 minutes left in the second quarter on a four-yard touchdown run off tackle. The play was set up by a 53-yard pass from Jeff Pace to Shelton Jones.

After an interception by Bobby Roseboro that carried to the East 14-yard line, Wardlow's burst off tackle put Parkland on top 13-0.

However, Wardlow saved his best effort for the final Parkland touchdown. With just over two minutes remaining in the first

"It was a very emotional game for the players," said Thompson. "(East Coach) Perry (Pearson) and I are very competitive with each other and we have been for a long time. It's quite natural for the kids to be fired up when we play East Forsyth."

After the Mustangs ran out to a 19-0 lead at the end of the first half, Thompson went to a rushing attack in the second half to take advantage of his fine stable of offensive backs.

"I thought we moved the ball

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