

**UPPER ARLINGTON 14,**

**DAVIDSON 6**

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### **A CLOSER LOOK**

**Star:** UA linebacker Nolan Kleinhenz, who recovered a fumble by Wildcats quarterback Connor Dietz at the Wildcats' 30-yard line to set up the Golden Bears' second touchdown.

**Key play:** UA defensive end Andrew Colosimo sacked Dietz on fourth-and-10 from the Bears' 11-yard line with 2:02 left to end the Wildcats' final scoring threat.

**Key stats:** Wildcats fullback Clay Trubiano rushed for 113 yards on 27 carries and Dietz rushed for 74 yards on 12 carries but lost one fumble. Bears running back Alex Drake had 85 yards rushing and a touchdown on 16 carries.

Upper Arlington High School football coach Mike Golden wasn't surprised that points were at a premium in his team's contest Friday against visiting Hilliard Davidson. That's what he figured would happen.

The Golden Bears prevailed in the defensive struggle, winning 14-6 in the OCC-Buckeye Division opener for both teams.

"I knew it was going to be a real physical game," said Golden, whose team improved to 5-1 overall. "I just told the kids before the game that we just have to stand in there and fight because we're two very proud programs and both teams were going to give it everything they've got and whoever plays the hardest and makes the fewest mistakes is going to win the game."

Davidson, which dropped to 4-2 overall, had an opportunity to tie the game late in the fourth quarter, but quarterback Connor Dietz bobbled the snap on fourth-and-10 from the Bears' 11-yard line and was sacked by defensive end Andrew Colosimo with 2 minutes, 2 seconds left. The Bears took over at their own 22 and got a first down, which enabled them to run out the clock.

"(Dietz) is a great competitor and one of our best kids and I know he probably feels bad about that (bobbled snap)," said Davidson assistant Ryan Aleshire, who was the acting head coach for the game because Brian White was suspended from coaching in the game by the OHSAA after being ejected from the Wildcats' 28-6 win over Thomas Worthington on Sept. 21 for arguing with an official.

Dietz fumbled on third-and-2 at the Wildcats' 37-yard line on the first possession of the second half and linebacker Nolan Kleinhenz recovered the ball at the 30. Six plays later, fullback Tommy Farwick scored on a 1-yard run to give the Bears a 14-6 lead.

“(Linebacker) Colin McClain had a great hit on (Dietz) and he fumbled it and I was at the right place at the right time,” Kleinhenz said.

The Bears’ only other touchdown came on a 13-yard run by running back Alex Drake in the first quarter.

Davidson got its points in the second quarter on two field goals by Colby Catlett. The second was set up by a Bears turnover, as Wildcats linebacker Chris Linderwell recovered a fumble by Drake at the Bears’ 23 with seven seconds left. One play later, Catlett made a 41-yard attempt as time expired to cut the deficit to 7-6.

“We were driving the ball pretty good at times but we weren’t able to put it in the end zone and that’s a testament to their defense,” Aleshire said. “I think our kids were playing pretty hard, but we just couldn’t finish things. (UA) is a good football team. I don’t know if we played up to our capabilities, but we tried and they ended up scoring more points than us.”

UA snapped a six-game losing streak to Davidson. The Bears’ previous win in the series was a 30-14 decision in 2002.

The Wildcats had defeated the Bears twice last season, winning 19-0 during the regular season en route to winning the OCC-Buckeye championship and 17-0 in a regional semifinal en route to winning the Division I state championship.

“It was a very important win,” Kleinhenz said. “We were looking forward to it during conditioning in the summer. We were doing extra sprints for this game. That’s what really motivated us. ... It’s very important to start off (league play) on the right foot and after the (22-7 loss to Hilliard Darby on Sept. 21), it was great to right the ship again.”