

## FOOTBALL

# Defensive stop thrusts Bears past Davidson

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*ThisWeek Staff Writer*

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

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, 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.

"(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 by the OHSAA after being ejected from a 28-6 win over Thomas Worthington on Sept. 21.

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.



BY JON MALIS/THISWEEK

**The Golden Bears' Meaghan Crowley returns a shot Sept. 27 against Hilliard Davidson. UA lost the OCC-Buckeye Division match 25-11, 25-22, 25-12.**

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.

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

"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."

DAVIDSON 0 6 0 0 -- 6

UA 7 0 7 0 -- 14

UA--Drake 13 run (Sylvester kick)

D--Catlett 28 FG

D--Catlett 41 FG

UA--Farwick 1 run (Sylvester kick)

#### **LAST GAME**

UA 14, DAVIDSON 6

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.