

## Wolves learn lesson from OT loss, defeat Bulldogs 25-22

### Andraisiyan nails double overtime FG to give Wolves Homecoming win

**Patrick Stoneberg**  
Sports Editor

Still smarting from their overtime loss to the Evanston Wildkits a week earlier, the Niles West Wolves apparently learned some lessons from that game as they emerged victorious on Friday, Oct. 6, with a heart-stopping 25-22 Homecoming victory over conference foe Waukegan in double overtime.

A trend so far this season for the Wolves is their lackluster play on their first offensive and defensive series. Although the coaching staff tried to eliminate that factor the previous week, the trend continued. On the first drive of the game, the Bulldogs marched down the field on the Wolves' defense for a touchdown, the failed two-point conversion leaving the deficit at 6-0.

"Once again we came out flat. We will just have to make the pre-game warm-up routine more intense," head coach Curtis Tate said.

In the second quarter the Bulldogs scored yet again, this time successfully completing the two-point conversion to make the score 14-0, quieting the enthusiastic Homecoming crowd.

However, on the Bulldogs' next possession, senior cornerback German Suncin made an acrobatic interception to give the momentum back to the Wolves. On the Wolves' ensuing possession senior quarterback Mike Anderson capped off the drive with a 19-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Suncin, who plays both ways. Senior kicker Andre Andraisiyan followed the touchdown up with an extra point to cut the Bulldog lead in half at 14-7.

"That was a real momentum swing for us in the second quarter. Suncin made a great play on the ball, and on the next drive had another nice grab for six," Tate said.

The Wolves' defense, led by senior linebacker Luke Cusack with six total tackles, clamped down after halftime, giving the offense multiple chances to score with great field position.

The running game was led by senior running back Mike Galambos who totaled 81 yards rushing, contributing to the Wolves' 152-yard total. Despite the impressive numbers, however, the running game could not crack the end zone, so the Wolves went to the air.

Anderson, who finished 7-20 with 129 yards passing for three touchdowns and three interceptions, took charge in the second half, connecting for his second of three touchdowns late in the third quarter, passing this time to senior WR Lenny Khizickia for a 36-yard strike. Once again, Andraisiyan finished the drive off with an extra point to knot the game up at 14-14.

"Our running game wasn't at its best and even though I made multiple mistakes in the first half, the coaches still had confidence in me to make plays. As a team we knew we had to step up, and we made the plays we needed," Anderson said.

Neither team was able to get its offense going in the fourth quarter, and game was all tied up at 14-14 as the teams headed into overtime.

The Wolves started the first overtime with the ball, and once again went to the air for six points on Anderson's third touchdown pass of the night, this one hauled in by Cusack for a six-yard reception. Following the score, usually sure-handed senior holder Brad Hohns mishandled the snap on the extra point but rolled out to find senior tight end Danny Dahm open in the end zone for a successful two point conversion.

"I was blocking for the extra point, counted to three and didn't hear [Andraisiyan] kick the ball, so I knew something was wrong. I turned around and saw Hohns running for his life. He saw me open, and it worked out for us," Dahm said.

The Bulldogs also had their opportunity to score in overtime, and, to the Wolves' dismay, did so on their first play. The Bulldogs then completed the two-point conversion on a halfback pass.

In the second overtime the Bulldogs were the ones who had the opportunity to score first. The Wolves defense stepped up, with senior defensive tackle Jim Hammersmith tallying up a sack on the first play and senior cornerback Jered Abdill intercepting a Bulldog pass in the end zone.

The Wolves regained possession of the ball, knowing that they only needed a field goal to win. After two runs which brought the ball to the three-yard line, Tate decided to go for the game-winning field goal on third down, which turned out to be a brilliant stratagem.

Once again the hold on the snap was off, and Andraisiyan kicked it off a lineman's back. However, Andraisiyan was fortunate enough to recover his kick, which did not pass the line of scrimmage. On fourth down the Wolves attempted another field goal, and this time, Andraisiyan nailed it to send alumni and students home happy with a 25-22 Homecoming victory.



Jubilant Wolves celebrate double-overtime victory.  
Photo courtesy Jim Szczepaniak