

Crusaders pick up where they left off, dismantle No.11 Muhlenberg in season opener

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In what was hopefully a sign of things to come this season, the UMHB Crusaders laid the beat down on nationally ranked opponents Muhlenberg College at home in their 2022 season opener. The Cru came out and made a statement before they even stepped on the field, opting to defer and put their defense on the field for the opening drive after winning the coin toss. The Cru defense stepped up early and forced a quick 3 and out, completely shutting down the Mules' offense and forcing them to punt. The Cru offense didn't waste any time flexing their muscle either, with Senior quarterback Kyle King and Senior wideout Jamaal Hamilton connecting for a 54 yard touchdown on the first play from scrimmage, putting the Crusaders up 6-0 inside the first minute of the game. The Cru were shortly brought back down to earth after their dream start when their PAT attempt was blocked, and the Mules' offense came back out and marched down the field to put the visitors up 7-6. The Cru struck back however, putting together another strong drive, capitalized by a 1 yard rushing touchdown by Senior running back Aphonso Thomas, putting the Cru back up 13-7. The Cru defense bounced back after giving up a touchdown their last time out, and forced another quick punt, which was blocked and recovered by Senior Brandon Jordan at the Mules 33 yard line . With the momentum completely shifted and the opportunity to go up two scores early, the Cru really took hold of this game and never looked back.

The Cru offense, set up with amazing field position, capitalized on their opportunity when Sophomore TE Will McClintock came down with a jaw dropping one handed catch in the back left corner of the endzone to put the Cru up 20-7 going into the second quarter. The Cru carried their offensive momentum into the second quarter, hanging up another three touchdowns from senior wideouts Brandon Jordan and K.J Miller, while only letting up one score to take a daunting 41-13 lead into half time. The Cru never let the Mules get a sniff back into the game during the 2nd half, shutting out the Muhlenberg offense while posting another three touchdowns courtesy of K.J Miller, Senior running back Kenneth Cormier Jr., and Sophomore wide receiver Jerry Cephus. It was a truly dominant display by the UMHB offense, who put out a blistering 674 total yards of offense, led by the stellar play of quarterback Kyle King, who put up 379 yards and 6 touchdowns and wideout Brandon Jordan, who put up 120 yards on 6 receptions along with 2 touchdowns. The Cru defense also heavily impressed, holding the Mules to 13 points and 389 yards of offense, while forcing 3 turnovers and a pair of sacks on the night. The Cru will certainly hope to replicate this performance as they move into conference play against Southwestern University here at home on September 17th.