

[Columbine Courier](#), **Rebels grind up Mullen**, October 6, 2015

By Dennis Pleuss

*Columbine's four-headed rushing attack runs for 5 TDs*

DENVER — Columbine used some effective second-half jabs followed up by a pair of haymakers in a Class 5A Jeffco League heavyweight bout against Mullen on Oct. 2.

The Rebels, ranked No. 2 in the CHSAANow.com 5A football poll, turned a 14-13 lead at halftime on the Mustangs' home field into an eventual 35-13 conference victory to keep Columbine (5-0, 3-0) undefeated on the season. It all started with a 16-play, 80-yard drive to start the second half that chewed up nearly nine minutes of the third quarter.

"That was a thing of beauty," Columbine coach Andy Lowry said of the drive that gave the Rebels a 21-13 lead. "I think I'm the only one in the world who loves four or five yards and a cloud of dust. I just love that."

Jake Lowry capped off the clock-eating drive with a 5-yard touchdown run on a fourth-down play. It would be the Rebel quarterback's last run of the game as the backfield trio of Mikey Griebel, Tim Mullin and Matthew Starkey took over for the remainder of the game.

"We were talking about getting back to the old Columbine ways of having nine-minute drives," said Jake Lowry, the coach's nephew. "To come out in the second half was awesome with that drive."

While the jabs of the long touchdown drive were key, two long-scoring runs proved to be the knockout blows to seal the victory.

After a three-and-out by the Mullen's offense on its first possession of the second half, Mullin broke loose for a 43-yard touchdown run up the middle to give the Rebels a 28-13 lead with 29 seconds left in the third quarter.

The Mustangs threatened on their next drive to cut the lead by advancing into Rebels' territory, but Griebel jumped a post route to snag an interception at Columbine's 4-yardline.

Starkey delivered the final knockout punch with a 96-yard touchdown run on the next play for the final score of the game.

"I couldn't have done it without my blockers and my team. It wasn't just me. It was the whole team on that play," Starkey said of the touchdown run. "I was kind of running out of gas, and Jake (Lowry) came up and got that last block for me."

Lowry, Griebel, Mullin and Starkey combined for 22 carries for 262 yards and three touchdowns in the second half. The victory keeps Columbine in the class with defending state champion Cherry Creek, Arapahoe and Westminster as the lone undefeated teams in 5A just past the midway point of the regular season.

“All four (Griebel, Lowry, Mullin and Starkey) are weapons,” Coach Lowry said. “Those four can’t do anything without blocking for each other or the offensive line up front. We are really proud of those kids.”

Starkey had a long touchdown run in the first half, and Griebel scored his eighth touchdown of the season with a short run before halftime. With Mullen’s defense putting all its attention on Griebel, the Rebels were able to show off their diversity on the ground.

“The linemen blocking and with all the fakes, Mullen couldn’t tell where the ball was,” said Mullin.

The Mustangs (3-2, 2-1) were led by junior running back Marcus McElroy Jr. The 6-foot, 200-pound back had 14 carries for a season-high 204 yards. He broke off an 82-yard run in the fourth, but Columbine’s defense stepped up with back-to-back sacks of Mullen junior quarterback Jovan Tafoya.

“That McElroy is a man-child. He is the best running back in the state, I think,” Coach Lowry said. “I haven’t seen anyone better, but I like my four guys, too.”

Lowry takes his squad back home to Jeffco Stadium this week for a 7:30 p.m. game Friday, Oct. 9, against Arvada West (0-5, 0-3).

[9News](#), **Video: Rebels roll past Mullen 35-13 to stay undefeated**, October 6, 2015

By Matt Boyer

After clinging to a one-point lead at halftime, the Columbine High School football team used 21 unanswered points and a defensive shutout in the second half to pull past Mullen High School 35-13 on Friday night.

The Rebels got on the board early thanks to a Matt Starkey 58 yard touchdown run, and would get another rushing score from Mikey Griebel later in the first half. The Mustangs answered with a pair of Marcus McElroy Jr touchdowns, but missed the point after attempt to head into the half down 14-13.