

Short Shots Big Trouble For Wildcats

Hit the easy shots and we win.

That's the game summary as Mulvane High School boys basketball coach Ryan Herra sees it.

The Cats' inability to convert easy shots Friday night, Jan. 9, when Maize visited the MHS gym spoiled a good opportunity for Mulvane as Maize held off the Cats, 58-45, in a Chisholm Trail League outing. The loss dropped Mulvane to 2-4 for the year and 0-

2 in the league. Maize improved its record to 6-2 and 2-0 in the league.

"We competed, we played hard the whole time but we didn't shoot the ball like we needed to, especially when we got easy shots inside," said Herra. "And we didn't shoot the ball enough, especially in the 3rd quarter. I think we got off only six shots that period."

The Eagles were ahead most of the game after jumping off to a 10-2 start. Once the Cats got going, they closed it to three (16-13) after one quarter, but turnovers and failure to connect under the basket kept the Wildcats from mounting a counter attack.

"We turned the ball over 20 times and that hurt us, too," said Herra. "They pressured us a little and double teamed our point guards. Nick (Hanson) and Kiel (Mangus) had 11 turnovers between them and that's unacceptable. Part of the fault also has to go to the other guys on the floor. When they double team our guards, that means somebody else has to be open and come get the ball. We weren't doing that."

But Herra held his biggest disappointment for Mulvane's inability to hit the good shots when the opportunity presented itself. "Early in the game, we missed a lot of great shots,"

said Herra. "Anytime you get the ball around the basket, you need to make the shot. If we could have hit some of those early shots, we wouldn't have been lagging behind."

It was the second straight game where the MHS offense has lagged behind. With Herra's two best offensive threats still not at full speed, it's understandable to see the Cats average only 50 points a game. In fact, the veteran Wildcats have scored under 50 points in three games.

Senior Zach Kimble can't shake a back injury and senior Greg Flores is still slowed by an ankle injury sustained during football season. Flores still managed 11 points to lead the MHS offense against the Eagles. Kimble finished with nine points, Hanson scored eight points and Grant Snider fin-

ished with six.

"We need to find a little more offense, that's it in a nutshell," said Herra. "But we missed so many layups and easy shots against Maize. I keep emphasizing to the guys that games are won and lost in the first half. When you miss easy shots, you don't get those shots back."

"Kimble is in such pain," added Herra. Last year, the lanky senior led the team in scoring. "He's a warrior. If he was healthy, we'd be looking at a lot different season than we are now, that's for sure."

The Wildcats came back a bit in the final eight minutes but it was too little too late. The Eagles out-scored Mulvane, 19-10, to stretch its lead to double figures and the Cat

defense couldn't make enough stops late to trim the lead to single digits.

In the junior varsity game, the Eagles thumped the Wildcats. Bobby Swayne had 12 points for the Mulvane jayvee team and both Kyle Womacks and J.D. Sorensen scored eight points.

The Wildcats will be home against Goddard Friday night, Jan. 16, for another CTL game. It's Winter Homecoming, too, and the royal court will fake the floor

between the boys and girls games.

Sharing the spotlight with the MHS king and queen will be a special presentation of the only Mulvane State basketball champion team. The Wildcats of 1983-84 will be introduced at halftime of the boys game. School officials plan to bring the 4A State title trophy on the court for pictures and the players on that team will receive special recognition gifts from both Coach Herra and the coach of that team, Charlie Mason.

Boys Varsity

Maize	16	11	19	12	58
Mulvane	13	7	10	15	45

Maize—Jordan Wilson 13, Justin Mohr 11, David King 2, Mike Dillon 8, Bruce Lowe 8, Jordan Lamb 4, Tyler Mitchell 6. FG 20 (4), FT 14 (8), FT 12.

Mulvane—Zach Kimble 9, Grant Snider 6, Brett Enochs 2, Nick Hanson 8, Gavin Snider 5, Greg Flores 11, Kiel Mangus 3. FG 16 (5), FT 8 (1), FT 12.