

Boys Go 2-1 At Chappy

Mulvane 3rd; Jags A Bump In The Road

The road to the 33rd annual Roadrunner Classic at Chaparral went through Andover Central Jaguars.

The road to a State tournament berth probably will go through Andover Central, too.

The Mulvane High School Wildcat boys travelled that road last week and found it a bit bumpy. Central knocked the Cats into the third place game Friday night, Jan. 23, by holding off the Wildcats, 55-40, but Mulvane rebounded Saturday, Jan. 24, to take 3rd place by stopping Clearwater, 61-51.

The MHS boys won in the first round Wednesday evening, Jan. 21, by 14 over Arkansas City, 53-39.

Andover Central went on to take the tournament championship, 61-50, against Winfield. The Wildcats have won the Roadrunner Classic only once. That title came in the 1984 season and propelled the Cats to the 4A State championship.

"The tournament was a positive for us," said Coach Ryan Herra. "I think we learned some things, our kids grew. We won two out of three and we've won three out of the last four, so we're on a nice little streak."

"Going into the tournament, we knew if we wanted to play the late game on Saturday, we'd have to go through Andover Central. Central's players knew they had to play a great game and they did. We saw them at their best (Stephen) DuCharme is just tough inside. He's a great player."

The Central Jaguars lived up to their No. 1 seed in the tournament and ran their record to 10-1. The Jags are one of the eight teams that will be in the field when the Mulvane 4A Sub-State opens in the first week of March.

The Roadrunner Classic gave Herra and his Cats, now 5-7, some momentum heading into the last half of the year. It wasn't easy, though. Earlier this year, Mulvane blasted Clearwater, 75-49, but the Wildcats trailed the Indians, 13-7, after one quarter of play at Chappy.

"We tried to get the kids to understand that they had to play their best to beat Clearwater, and once we started doing things right, we started taking care of business."

The Cats bounced back in the 2nd quarter and took a two-point lead, 21-19, by halftime. Mulvane out-scored the Indians, 21-9,

in the 3rd quarter to take control of the game.

"We had a really good third quarter," said Herra. "The biggest factor is we started getting the basketball into the post on offense. We've been trying to get our kids to look inside. I was so mad early in the 2nd quarter because we weren't getting the ball inside. Gavin (Snider) was working his tail off inside but our guards weren't getting him the ball. Once we started doing that, we broke the game open."

Snider finished with a career-high 21 points, hitting 11 of 13 shots. Zach Kimble was the only other Wildcat in double figures. He had 10 points. Guards Kiel Mangus and Nick Hansen scored seven points each and Greg Flores and Brad Enochs finished with six and five, respectively.

In the game against Central, the wheels came off in the second half after the two C.T.L. teams battled to a tight first half. AC was ahead, 24-20, at halftime. However, the Jaguars broke the game up by out-scoring the Cats, 17-5, in the 3rd quarter.

"Our offense just went stale in that quarter," said Herra. "We couldn't find the bucket and you know what, we got good shots. It's tough when they have a big guy (6-7) like DuCharme in there. We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

The 3rd period started off harmlessly enough. AC hit a lay-up behind the Cat defense. Then, another lay-up off their transition game. "We needed a stop right then and didn't get one," observed Herra. "When you fall that far behind a team as good as Andover Central, it makes it really tough to get back. They don't make mistakes and they are used to winning."

Enochs had his best game as a Wildcat. He scored a career-best 16 points. Gavin Snider scored six points, Kimble had five and Hansen scored four.

"Enochs had a great game," said Herra. "He defended well, he scored well, he had a fantastic game. We want him to be more involved. One thing about Brad is that nothing gets him down. He plays hard regardless of whether he's scoring or not."

The Wildcats started the tournament with a solid performance against Arkansas City. "That was our most complete game to date," pointed out Herra. "The guys didn't have breakdowns, they didn't let Ark City go on a

33rd Chaparral Roadrunner Boys Classic Results

THIRD PLACE

Clearwater 13 6 9 23-51
Mulvane 7 14 21 19-61
Clearwater - Josh Gerlach 16, Chris Lang 5, Cody Shaver 6, Craig Mellen 3, Jason Brady 3, Mark Bailey 18. FG 16 (6), FT 9 (17), F 24

Mulvane - Kiel Mangus 7, Gavin Snider 24, Zach Kimble 10, Greg Flores 6, Nick Hansen 7, Grant Snider 2, Brad Enochs 5. FG 23 (21), FT 13 (22), F 13

CHAMPIONSHIP

Andover Central 61, Winfield 50

FIFTH PLACE

Arkansas City 47, Pratt 37

SEVENTH PLACE

Conway Springs 47, Chaparral 40

SEMIFINALS

Andover Central 18 6 17 14-55
Mulvane 14 6 5 15-40

Andover Central - Drew Armagost 6, Luke Templin 4, Stephen DuCharme 24, Scott Glenn 2, Zach Flurry 13, Matt Hewitt 1, Eason Terry 5. FG 23 (21), FT 7 (9), F 12

Mulvane - Brad Enochs 16, Greg Flores 2, Zach Kimble 5, Kiel Mangus 3, Grant Snider 2, Nick Hansen 4, Gavin Snider 6, Bobby Swayne 2. FG 16 (41), FT 4 (9), F 11

Winfield 68, Clearwater 52

Pratt 74, Chaparral 45

Arkansas City 47, Conway Springs 36

FIRST ROUND

Arkansas City 11 6 12 10-39
Mulvane 12 11 12 18-53

Arkansas City - Noah Smithson 2, Sean Waugh 4, Dane Kelly 16, Matt Osterthun 2, Ben Cleveland 5, Tyler Blevins 3, Brandon Reed 7. FG 17 (41), FT 1 (6), F 16

Mulvane - Gavin Snider 9, Brad Enochs 8, Grant Snider 6, Nick Hansen 4, Zach Kimble 19, Greg Flores 2, Logan Sorensen 5. FG 21 (31), FT 8 (15), F 11

Andover Central 61, Conway Springs 38

Winfield 70, Pratt 61

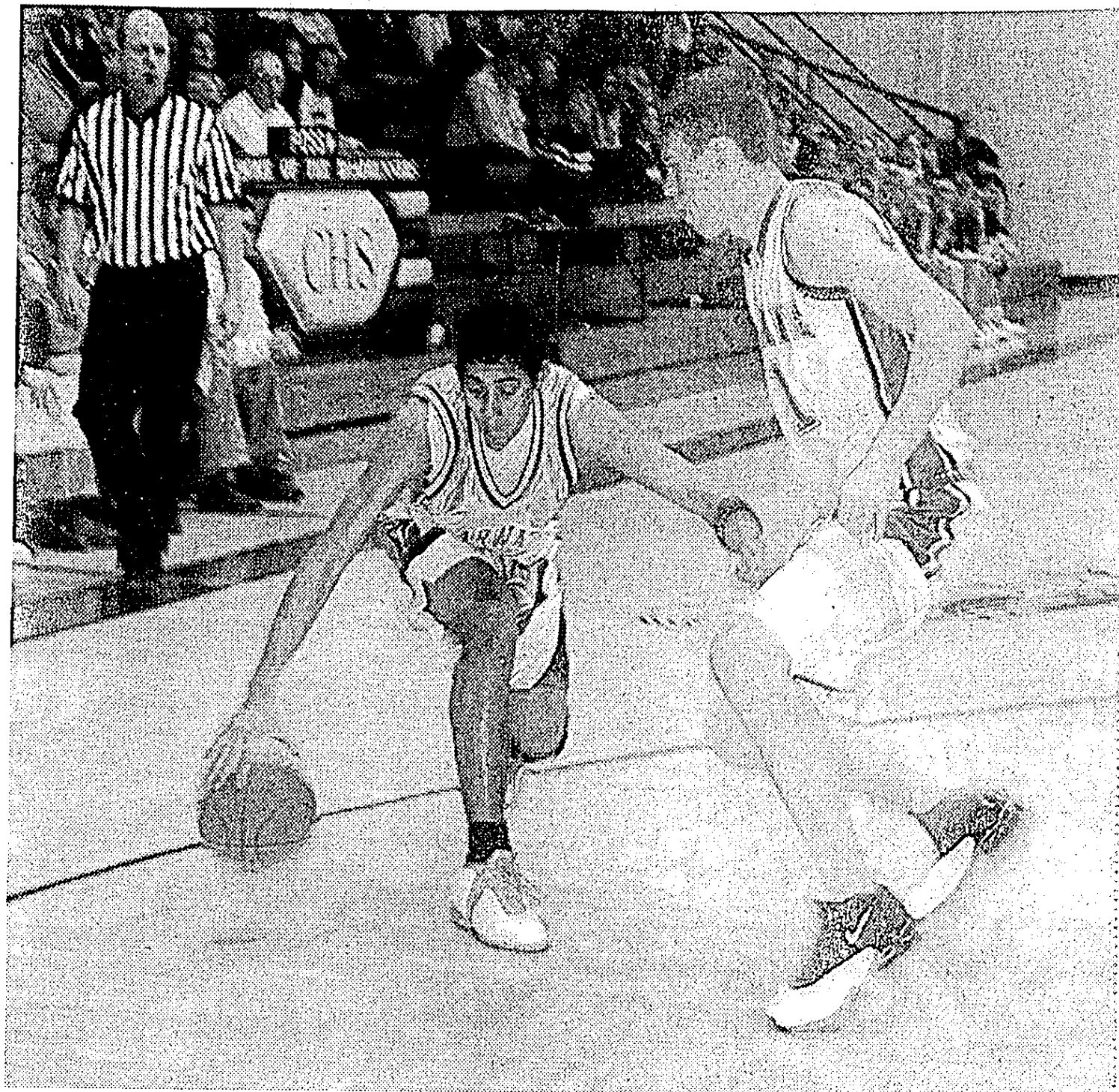
Clearwater 64, Chaparral 48

runs. They started strong and finished strong. It was just a really consistent game."

The Cats finally pulled away in the last quarter, out-scoring the Bulldogs, 18-10.

Kimble dumped in his tournament-high, 19 points. Gavin Snider scored nine points, Enochs had eight, Grant Snider scored six and guard Logan Sorensen had five.

The MHS boys will try to keep the momentum generated Friday night, Jan. 29, when they travel to Rose Hill, hoping to make amends for their worst game of the season. Earlier this year, the Rockets smashed the Wildcats, 49-29, in the Mulvane Early Season Tournament. The game will be preceded by a 9th grade boys game and a boys jayvee contest since the Mulvane girls are playing in the Wildcat Girls Classic this week.



Mulvane senior Zach Kimble (21) moves to stay in front of a Clearwater dribbler