

Mason Tries To Plug Holes

Kind of like a medic who doesn't know where to start on a seriously-injured patient, Mulvane High School boys basketball taskmaster Charlie Mason just wants to stop the bleeding for now.

His Wildcats limped into the Christmas holidays with an 0-5 record and tried to patch as many holes as possible during the two-week holiday break in the action.

"We need to improve on our shooting and we need to improve on our rebounding," cited Mason, who is in his 11th season at the helm and trying to close in on 125 career victories (he needs seven more this year). "Heavens, we need to work on our defense, too. We're giving up 75 points a ball game and we're only scoring 47. There's the difference right there. It's just a total package deal."

Valley Center gave the Wildcats their latest send-off into the holiday season Tuesday night, Dec. 19, when the hot Hornets slaughtered the hapless Cats, 87-37, in the most lopsided loss of the Mason era.

"Usually during the Christmas time, we have time to put in some new things but we're still trying to refine the old stuff. Hopefully, playing every Tuesday and Friday nights, we'll be able to improve. Record-wise, I just don't know. Everytime we try to do something right, we line up against somebody like Valley Center. There's just not a whole lot we can do except keep working."

Mason's looking for a total transfusion, but that's impossible. "We have been working over the holidays to improve our offense and our defense, and we've worked hard on our transition game," added Mason. "I think we've worked harder than every full court. I don't think making a bunch of changes in our material is the answer. The things we

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	5	14	4	14-37
Valley Center	18	24	18	27-87

Mulvane—Bill Harrington 8, Jeff Parson 6, Jarrod Oldridge 2, Gary Cleverdon 2, Jeff Sisco 15, Todd Hedstrom 2, Scott Travis 2. FG 14-52 (2), FT 7-16, F 16.

Valley Center—Bobby Webber 10, Chad Nitcher 12, Scott Nordstedt 6, Ryan Hurlbut 7, Jason Carter 14, Ed Washington 3, Craig Bally 12, Russell Parker 10, Tad Ensey 1, Bryan Newell 2, Adam Dunn 2, Darren Eskridge 2, Mike Drumright 6. FG 39-78 (0), FT 9-18, F 15.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	7	6	10	7-30
Valley Center	27	20	13	30-90

Mulvane—Toby Hoving 5, Chad Lee 3, Chad Carpenter 4, Brian McDonald 1, Neil Andersen 5, Cory Moyer 2, Guy Alvarez 1, Andy Mackey 4, Gary Cleverdon 5. FG 10-36 (0), FT 10-20, F 18.

Valley Center—Tony Taylor 8, Scott Schulze 5, Mike Drumright 15, Dallas Gilmore 6, Darren Eskridge 12, Adam Dunn 10, David Tackitt 8, Craig Bally 5, Aron Dunn 8, Jeremy Zellars 2, Ed Washington 4, Scott Simonsen 7. FG 37-66 (3), FT 13-22, F 20.

Sophomore Boys

Mulvane	6	4	18	10-40
Valley Center	18	17	19	13-67

Mulvane—Judson Spicer 4, Chad Lee 4, Chad Carpenter 10, Kerry Collier 2, Brian McDonald 6, Neil Andersen 2, Cory Moyer 6, Jay Jackson 6. FG 14-61 (2), FT 6-10, F 22.

Valley Center—Brandon Tidemann 8, Fletcher Finch 3, Kirk Royse 6, Travis Schupp 6, Bryce Swingle 12, Jeff Gibson 2, Clayton McPheeters 4, Brian Feneze 10, Ryan Rowley 2, Scott Simonsen 14. FG 18-55 (4), FT 19-29, F 11.

have in will work if we can get people to do them right."

The Wildcat defense, which has been porous at best, is one area of real concern for the Wildcat mentor. "Defense is just hard work and desire and we're not getting it done there," admitted Mason. "At times, we play good defense and at other times, we're atrocious. You have to stop and think, though. We have three people who have had varsity experience and we're playing a lot of inexperienced people. A lot of our young people are going to have to get old fast."

Changing line-ups hasn't been the answer, either. Mason has had five different starting fives in the first five games. "Everybody's been playing because we're trying to find a combination that works," said Mason. "Everybody's getting a chance."

The top guns for the Cats have been sophomore Gary Cleverdon and senior Jeff Sisco, who is a 6-foot, 6-inch center. Both are in double figures for the season. Consistency, however, has been a big problem, both on offense and at the other end, and the Cats just haven't had any consistency.

At Valley Center, the game was a prime example of inconsistent play.

"We dug ourselves a hole early by turning the ball over against their press and we never could get untracked," admitted Mason. "You can't do that against a team the caliber of Valley Center. That is the best Valley Center team they've had since I've been here. They have it all. When you have six guys who are 6-5 and their best player is a 6-3 junior and they have all but one starter back from last year, I'd say you have a pretty complete, outstanding team. I don't see anybody in the league beating them."

The pressure defense worked well early for the host Hornets as they jumped ahead, 14-0, and raced onward and upward with ease.

Sisco topped the scoring effort by Mulvane with 15 points. Junior Bill Harrington scored eight points and sophomore Jeff Parson had six while Cleverdon was held to only two after getting into early foul trouble.

The Wildcat jayvees also took it on the chin as VC racked up a 90-30 margin.

Coach Dale Landes' top scorers were Toby Hoving, Neil Andersen and Cleverdon, each with five points. Andy Mackey scored four points as did Chad Carpenter.

Valley made a sweep of things by rolling to a 67-40 victory in the sophomore game, sending Mulvane's sophomores to a 0-2 mark.

Carpenter paced the Cat sophs with 10 points. Brian McDonald, Cory Moyer and Jay Jackson each scored six points and Judson Spicer and Chad Lee had four apiece.