

# Opportunity Knocks Friday

Every game is a new opportunity for Mulvane High School first-year coach Ryan Herrs to start the climb.

Herrs is hoping there's no better time to start it than Friday night, Jan. 5, against Andover. Herrs coached at Andover for several years before coming to Mulvane at the start of this school year. So far, it hasn't been a bowl of cherries as the senior-laden Wildcats have gotten off to an 0-5 start.

The latest of the "5" was Friday, Dec. 22, the night MHS started its Christmas break. Augusta came to town and swamped the Wildcats, 58-34. In the junior varsity game against the Orioles, Augusta rolled over the Cat JVs, 60-31.

"We caught Augusta at a real strange time

after the horrible loss of their assistant coach so we didn't know what to expect emotionally," said Herrs. "I thought we looked pretty good at times but the kids just aren't used to winning. The program is still trying to improve in too many areas all at the same time. I felt like we showed some improvement against Augusta but we're still a long ways from getting where we need to be."

Herrs said he felt like his guys were understanding the game better, understanding the way adjustments are made and why things happen and understanding what they need to do. "The big thing is to be able to put all that together and do it, and we can't do that," said Herrs. "Right now, we have no wins so it's tough to believe in anything

you're doing. We're trying to stay positive and keep working."

Three areas are simply killing the Cat attempts to strike into the win column. One is defense. A second is shooting and the third is turnovers. "On defense, we make some stops and that's good," said Herrs, "but you have to make more than a stop or two to win ball games.

"Offensively, we're still shooting a pretty low percentage, 35% for the game," added the first-year coach. "We have to continue to work on our shooting. We have to get better there. We're just not very consistent in our play. Guys like (Ryan) McKnight, (Chris) Gerhardt, (Andy) Hixson and (Jason) Phillips are very capable of scoring in double figures every night, every game. I have to give Chris a lot of credit in the Augusta game. He started scoring and the kids kind of rallied around him."

Gerhardt finished with his biggest point total this year, scoring nine points against the Orioles. Hixson and Phillips scored six points each and McKnight had four.

But the MHS offense was no match for Augusta's. The Orioles blasted out to a 15-9 lead after one quarter and were up by 12 at halftime. They put the game away in the third quarter when Augusta out-scored the Cats, 14-4.

The other area of concern for Herrs is in the turnover department. It's a season-long problem so far this year and one that Herrs and the Wildcats work on every day in practice. "We're still having too many turnovers," pointed out Herrs. "We're having 20-to-30 a game and that's a tremendous amount of turnovers. That's a tremendous amount of attempts that you don't get. It's everybody on the floor, not just one player or two. We don't handle the basketball well and all you can do about that is keep working hard to improve."

That improvement will get a stern, new test Friday night against the Trojans. "It's another opportunity," said Herrs. "The games are for the kids. It's time to go out there and show what they can do. We're still keeping the same motto: 'The Wildcats are playing for the Wildcats.' We're shooting for playing our best and whatever happens is going to happen."

In the junior varsity game, the Orioles didn't take long to pull away from the Wildcats. Augusta had a 12-point lead by

## Varsity Boys

Augusta	15	18	14	11	58
Mulvane	9	12	4	9	34

Augusta—Scott Landers 1, Kyle Taylor 7, Neil Riggs 11, Jake Sims 7, Preston Todd 1, Hans Nickel 9, John Macer 10, Kyle Slade 5, Wes Little 6, Steve Oltman 1. FG 24 (1), FT 9-18, F 14.

Mulvane—Chris Gerhardt 9, Brian Love 2, Ryan McKnight 4, Jason Phillips 6, Andy Hixson 6, Jason Wilson 3, Luke Gunter 3, Jonathan Reed 2. FG 16 (1), FT 1-8, F 15.

## Junior Varsity Boys

Augusta	12	12	20	16	60
Mulvane	7	5	7	13	31

Augusta—Todd Preston 4, Casey Smith 10, Randall Derck 8, Steve Oltman 8, Kevin Schant 5, Jake Sims 3, Tim Wedam 8, Jayden Gillies 4, Tyler Berry 2, Jeff Krauss 2, Scott Slade 6. FG 25 (1), FT 6-21, F 21.

Mulvane—Kale Regier 6, Dusty Sorensen 3, Caleb Alexander 2, Luke Gunter 1, Tyler Hennes 10, Jeremy Adams 9. FG 10 (3), FT 8-22, F 22.

intermission and put the game away with a 20-point 3rd quarter.

Mulvane's scoring was led by sophomore Tyler Hennes with 10 points. Jeremy Adams finished with nine points, Kale Regier had six and Dusty Sorensen finished with three.

## Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

### DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	2	0	5	1
Augusta	1	0	4	1
Goddard	0	0	4	0
Andover	0	0	1	2
Valley Center	1	1	1	4
Maize	1	1	3	3
Mulvane	0	2	0	5

### DIVISION II

Kingman	1	0	6	1
Circle	1	0	6	0
Andale	1	0	3	3
Rose Hill	1	1	4	3
Wellington	0	1	1	4
Clearwater	0	2	2	4

## Chisholm Trail League Girls Basketball Standings

### DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	2	0	6	0
Valley Center	2	0	3	2
Goddard	0	0	4	0
Mulvane	1	1	4	1
Andover	0	1	2	2
Augusta	0	1	1	4
Maize	0	2	1	5

### DIVISION II

Kingman	1	0	5	2
Circle	1	0	3	3
Andale	1	0	3	3
Clearwater	1	1	1	5
Wellington	0	1	2	4
Rose Hill	0	2	2	5