

One Half Doesn't A Game Make

For at least 16 minutes this season, coach Dale Landes knows his team played the way he wants them to play. The Wildcats put together a first half at Rose Hill that left them with a two-point lead at halftime over a team ranked in the top ten of Class 4A on their home floor in a game played Tuesday, Jan. 3.

That is when the walls came tumbling down, as did Mulvane's defense, and Rose Hill took control to win the game 67-48.

"We played extremely well in the first half," Landes said. "You have to be happy when you are winning at halftime at Rose Hill."

Mulvane held Rose Hill to 26 first-half points by clamping down on the Rocket inside duo of All-Stater Clayton Dye and Brant Brittingham.

"We executed defensively to handle them the way we wanted to," Landes said.

The third quarter was the turning point, as Mulvane was outscored 29-9 in the frame.

"We did not play well at all," Landes said.

The Rockets hurt Mulvane from the outside, bombing three three-point shots in the quarter from guards absent in the first half.

"We were not rotating well on defense, especially after Dye got the ball," Landes said.

The 'Cats also were hurt from the interior dealing with the 6'6" Brittingham.

"We were terrible on the boards," Landes said. "We gave them easy opportunities to put back shots."

There were positives in the game.

"That was the best teamwork we have had all season and that is what I want to see," Landes said.

Dexter Carpenter had a career-high and game-high 20 points on the night. He also snared 10 rebounds while banging with the Rockets bigger players.

"He had an all-around great game," Landes said.

In a season of lessons, Landes hopes to again build off of what went right for Mulvane.

"We just have to learn to sustain a run," he said. "You just can not give up 20 points in a quarter and hope to win."

The jayvee got a big 61-60 win at Rose Hill. The Wildcats built up a 12-point lead after three quarters, but found themselves down one point with seven seconds left to play in the contest.

That is when Jeremiah Coleman took the inbound pass from Tad Nicholson and lobbed it half the court to Luke Cox who dumped in a lay-up to win the game.

"It was my first time in coaching where the team ran the play we drew up exactly and it worked," JV coach Scott Swaney said.

Matt Hendren led the Wildcats with 22 points. He combined with Cox, who scored 13, to dominate the middle all game.

The Mulvane boys basketball team was aware that Andale was undefeated, athletic and on a roll so far this season. They were aware of many things.

"We knew this was a game we needed to start off well," Coach Dale Landes said.

That is where Mulvane failed in their 63-57 loss to the Indians. The Wildcats fell behind 19-5 after one quarter, digging a hole that, as hard as they tried, they could not climb their way out.

What went wrong?

"If I could figure that out, I would sell it," Landes said.

After the terrible start, the 'Cats held even with Andale through the second quarter.

"We had trouble defensively and they shot well," Landes said. "We had a hard time with their athleticism."

It was a different story in the second half. Mulvane came out inspired and outscored Andale 40-32 over the last 16 minutes.

What went right?

"We made some adjustments at halftime," Landes said. "Defensively, it just came down to work."

Mulvane also started to convert at the offensive end, as the lid seemed to be taken off their basket.

"Mike Abasolo came out in the second half and really helped us get things going," Landes said.

Abasolo finished the game with 11 points. Jeff Parker led Mulvane with a dozen points, while Jeremy Brown gave the Wildcats their third double-digit scorer adding 10 points.

"Jeremy is starting to do things the right way," Landes said.

It was Mulvane's most balanced scoring effort of the season.

"I was pleased with the three guys in double figures," Landes said. "Of course, I would like to see three guys in the teens."

Landes felt the real key to the turnaround was the improved shooting eye of his players.

"We are a streaky shooting team, we needed to get some shots in the basket," he said. "It was kind of a snowball effect. When we shot better, we were more intense on the other end instead of being frustrated."

The 14-point bulge at the beginning may not have been as bad as it seemed.

"I felt their guards could be pressured," Landes said. "If we could have executed our full-court press better, it could have been a very different game."

Besides the obvious show of character and improved shooting, Landes felt his team did many things better. One of them was free-throw shooting. After being an Achilles heel all season, Mulvane shot a season-best 15-21 from the line.

"When you are 0-6, you pick out the little things to be positive about," Landes said.

The jayvee team acted like the varsity, getting off to a poor start. After being down 12 points at halftime, the Wildcats battled back, but fell short, losing 57-54.

"We came out flat," JV Coach Scott Swaney said. "Maybe this will teach the kids they have to play all four quarters."

The 'Cats were up two points in the fourth quarter, but could not hold off the Indians.

Tad Nicholson was the leading scorer for Mulvane, netting 12 points. Greg Nunn scored 10 points, with Jeremiah Coleman adding nine.

The sophomore boys beat Andale 59-47. Sam Roebuck scored 22 points to lead Mulvane to a win. Neil Gosch scored 11 of his 13 points in the third quarter.

The boys will next be in action Tuesday, Jan. 10, hosting Clearwater.

The varsity game starts at 8 p.m.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	14	14	9	11-48
Rose Hill	12	14	29	12-67
Mulvane—Sean Younger 2, Jeremy Brown 8, Michael Abasolo 7, Shawn Erbert 6, Dexter Carpenter 20, Luke Cox 3, Brad Canfield 2. FG 21 (2) FT 4-7 F 10.				
Rose Hill—Brett Mohr 11, Kyle Holland 6, Bryan Mohr 2, Johnny Simmons 10, Clayton Dye 14, Creighton Snellenberg 6, Brant Brittingham 18. FG 29 (3) FT 6-8 F 12.				

Jayvee Boys

Mulvane	15	19	17	10-61
Rose Hill	21	4	14	21-60
Mulvane—Tad Nicholson 8, Seth Jones 2, Jeremiah Coleman 2, Greg Nunn 10, Neil Gosch 4, Matt Hendren 22, Luke Cox 13. FG 25 (2) FT 9-14 F 20.				
Rose Hill—Brett Mohr, Bryan Mohr 12, Chad Thomason 4, Greg Richards 10, Nick Kruger, David Rowden 8, Dustin Thomas 14, John Smith 2. FG 23 (3) FT 11-21 F 17.				

Varsity Boys

Andale	19	12	10	22-63
Mulvane	5	12	12	28-57
Andale—Stanhope 11, Temes 7, Eck 20, Wenrich 7, Wilson 12, Gruenbacher 2, McNett 2, Spencer 2. FG 28 (3) FT 10-19, F 21.				
Mulvane—Jeff Parker 12, Dexter Carpenter 8, Brad Canfield 6, Mike Abasolo 11, Shawn Erbert 3, Jeremy Brown 10, Sean Younger 2, Tim Glaser 3, Tom Nienke 2. FG 24 (6), FT 15-21, F 19.				

Junior Varsity Boys

Andale	13	17	12	15-57
Mulvane	9	9	22	14-54
Andale—Hatten 10, Reynolds 9, Molliter 7, Gruenbacher 5, McKee 4, Weber 4. FG 24 (0) FT 9-19 F 15.				
Mulvane—Tad Nicholson 12, Greg Nunn 10, Jeremiah Coleman 9, Tim Glaser 7, Neil Gosch 6, Luke Cox 6, Raymond Lazier 2, Matt Hendren 2. FG 20 (5) FT 9-16 F 17.				

Sophomore Boys

Andale	7	17	8	15-47
Mulvane	20	10	18	11-59
Andale—Keith Weber 14, Justin Strunk 5, Ryan McNett 15, Joe Gatlin 4, Pete Molitor 2, Nate Meass 3, Chris Mounts 3, Andreas Wagner 1. FG 18 (0), FT 11-18, F 14.				
Mulvane—Sam Roebuck 22, Neil Gosch 13, Raymond Lazier 10, Greg Nunn 6, Pete Myers 4, Michael Johnson 1, Jeremiah Coleman 2. FG 25 (5), FT 4-10, F 17.				