

Augusta Goes Inside; Leaves Cats Outside

Going into this season, Mulvane High School boys basketball coach Dale Landes felt the Wildcats could stack up against anybody inside, but he found out differently Tuesday night, Jan. 4, when Augusta came to town.

The Orioles' passing game repeatedly found 6-foot, 8-inch center Geoff Markos open inside and that launched a 67-51 Augusta victory in a Chisholm Trail League game.

The loss dropped the Cats a notch, to 3-4 for the year overall and 0-2 in league play while Augusta moved into a tie with Buhler (both at 2-0) at the top of the CTL's Division I.

"Their post people really hurt us," admitted Landes. "We had a hard time on the boards. They got quite a few offensive put-backs and it hurts anytime you give the opposition the easy second shots. We couldn't stop their penetration and when our big people went up to stop the dribble, they dumped it deep. Our perimeter people really are the ones who need to stop the penetration off the dribble, but they didn't do it."

The 5-1 Orioles marched out smartly to the early lead but the Cats hung tough just on the fringe of being in the game and finally cut the Augusta lead to four points in the third quarter. However, Augusta pulled away down the stretch by out-scoring

Mulvane, 12-5, in the final eight minutes after MHS senior Jason DeWald went down with a leg injury early in the last quarter.

"I thought we were about ready to make our big run and we did but when Jason went down, it was deflating," said Landes. "It really hurt. We played well in spurts but every time we'd get the margin down a little, we'd have a breakdown and they'd get it back to eight or nine points. We had plenty of opportunities to hit the big shot, but it seemed like we couldn't hit the big shot when we needed it and they did."

One bright spot was a good blend of scoring from seven players. Dan Smith led the way with 12 points and reserve, Mike Abasolo, scored 10 points. Guard Chris Heersche scored eight points, Jeff Parker had nine and DeWald finished with six, although he failed to score in the last half.

The Mulvane junior varsity ripped Augusta, 60-47, playing one of its better games.

Junior Dexter Carpenter had a career-high 26 points to key the Cat offense. Jeremy Brown finished with 15 points and Shawn Erbert, Tom Nienke and Rick Maxwell had four points each for Coach Scott Swaney's jayvees.

The Wildcat boys hit a milestone of sorts just before the Christmas holiday when they

invaded Andale Tuesday, Dec. 21, and took no prisoners. Coach Landes' outfit rolled over the host Indians, 51-40, in a non-league game.

The wild thing about the victory, however, is that it lifted the Cats to 3-3 for the season, the first time Mulvane basketball has been at the .500 level or better since the 1987-88 season, when a four-game winning streak boosted Mulvane to 9-9 late in February. And the Cats won their third in a row after starting with an 0-3 record, marking the first time since that 1987-88 four-game string that Mulvane has won more than two consecutive games.

Afterwards, Landes made no bones about it. "We felt going into the Andale game that we should win it if we played well and if we controlled the boards," said Landes. "And we did both. We kept an eight-to-15-point lead most of the game. The key to it was shooting from the field. The kids also did a fine job defensively. When you don't shoot the ball from the field, you have to control the boards. Andover didn't have a good shooting night and we controlled the backboards."

The Wildcats are enjoying more success this season because they are hitting the basket better. Poor shooting in the last five or six years has been a problem but not this

season. As a team, Mulvane is hitting 48% from the field, which isn't too shabby. And at Andale, the Cats made 19 of 43 (44%) while the Injuns hit only 14 of 36 (38%).

On Andale's misses, seniors Dan Smith and Jason DeWald were tough inside, swiping away 13 and 10 rebounds, respectively. Mulvane carried away a 31-21 edge on the boards for the game.

Offensive standout for the Wildcats was junior Jeff Parker, who dropped in three three-pointers and finished with a career high 18 points. The senior Cornejo finished with eight points, DeWald had seven and Mike Abasolo and Smith had six points apiece.

"It was good to see Jeff get hot," said Landes. "He's been struggling most of the early season so I was real happy to see him get going. Griff Cornejo came out and did a good job shooting, too, especially when we needed it in the second half."

About the only sour note the Wildcats played at Andale was from the free throw stripe. They kept the game kind of close by going 10-for-26 at the line. "When you shoot that badly, you just allow the other team to hang in there," said Landes. "And that was key to them staying in the game. We haven't been shooting well at the free throw line all season (hitting only 49%). If we're going to be a good ball club, we'll have to shoot over 60% from the line. We work in practice every day on free throwing and we're trying to make the kids understand free throwing can make a difference."

Coach Scott Swaney's junior varsity held on for a 64-63 victory at Andale.

The Cat jayvees broke loose for 24 points in the third quarter to take a seven-point lead into the final stanza but had to hang on as Andale rallied.

High scorer for the MHS jayvees was guard Tim Glaser, who scored 12 points. Both Tom Nienke and Shawn Erbert scored nine points and Dexter Carpenter checked in with 11.

The Wildcats will be on the road again Friday night, Jan. 7, when they troop to Valley Center for a Chisholm Trail League game against the Hornets.

Varsity Boys

Augusta	21	20	14	12-67
Mulvane	15	15	16	5-51

Augusta--Geoff Markos 22, Ryan Miller 6, Kennedy Nesler 4, Lucas Sims 17, Travis Buell 2, Brett Kappelmann 9, Martin Sheilar 7. FG 28 (4), FT 7-13, F 10

Mulvane--Chris Heersche 8, Mike Abasolo 10, Jeff Parker 9, Shay Vargas 2, Griff Cornejo 4, Dan Smith 12, Jason DeWald 6. FG 21 (2), FT 7-12, F 14.

Junior Varsity Boys

Augusta	8	18	11	10-47
Mulvane	22	4	20	14-60

Augusta--Josh Cook 16, Donny Hagebusch 3, Michael Bernhardt 7, Luke NeSmith 6, Devon Brown 14, Justin Mitchell 1. FG 20 (1), FT 6-13, F 13

Mulvane--Dexter Carpenter 26, Jeremy Brown 15, Shawn Erbert 4, Tom Nienke 4, Rick Maxwell 4, David Butler 2, Brad Canfield 2. FG 27 (3), FT 3-5, F 17.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	15	10	12	14-51
Andale	7	9	11	13-40

Mulvane--Jeff Parker 18, Dan Smith 6, Jason DeWald 7, Griff Cornejo 8, Chris Heersche 1, Shay Vargas 1, Jeremy Brown 1, Dexter Carpenter 3, Mike Abasolo 6. FG 19-43 (3), FT 10-26, F 16.

Andale--Josh Beyrie 8, Jeff Gorges 3, Corey Rau 2, Alyward 8, Derek Wilson 7, Stanhope 2, Temes 3, Eck 5, Brassier 2. FG 14-36 (2), FT 10-16, F 21.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	8	18	24	14-64
Andale	10	15	18	20-63

Mulvane--Dexter Carpenter 11, Tom Nienke 9, Jeremy Brown 7, Shawn Erbert 9, Rick Maxwell 8, Kevin Diller 3, Tim Glaser 12, David Butler 3. FG 25 (5), FT 9-19, F 17.

Andale--Hieger 3, Rau 5, Easter 14, Wenrich 11, Reynolds 4, McNeu 2, Weber 22. FG 26 (0), FT 8-20, F 19.

Sophomore Boys

No sophomore game

Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

Rose Hill	2	0	3	3
Andover	2	1	4	3
Circle	2	1	4	3
Chaparral	1	1	2	4
Kingman	0	1	0	4
Andale	0	1	0	6
Clearwater	0	2	1	5