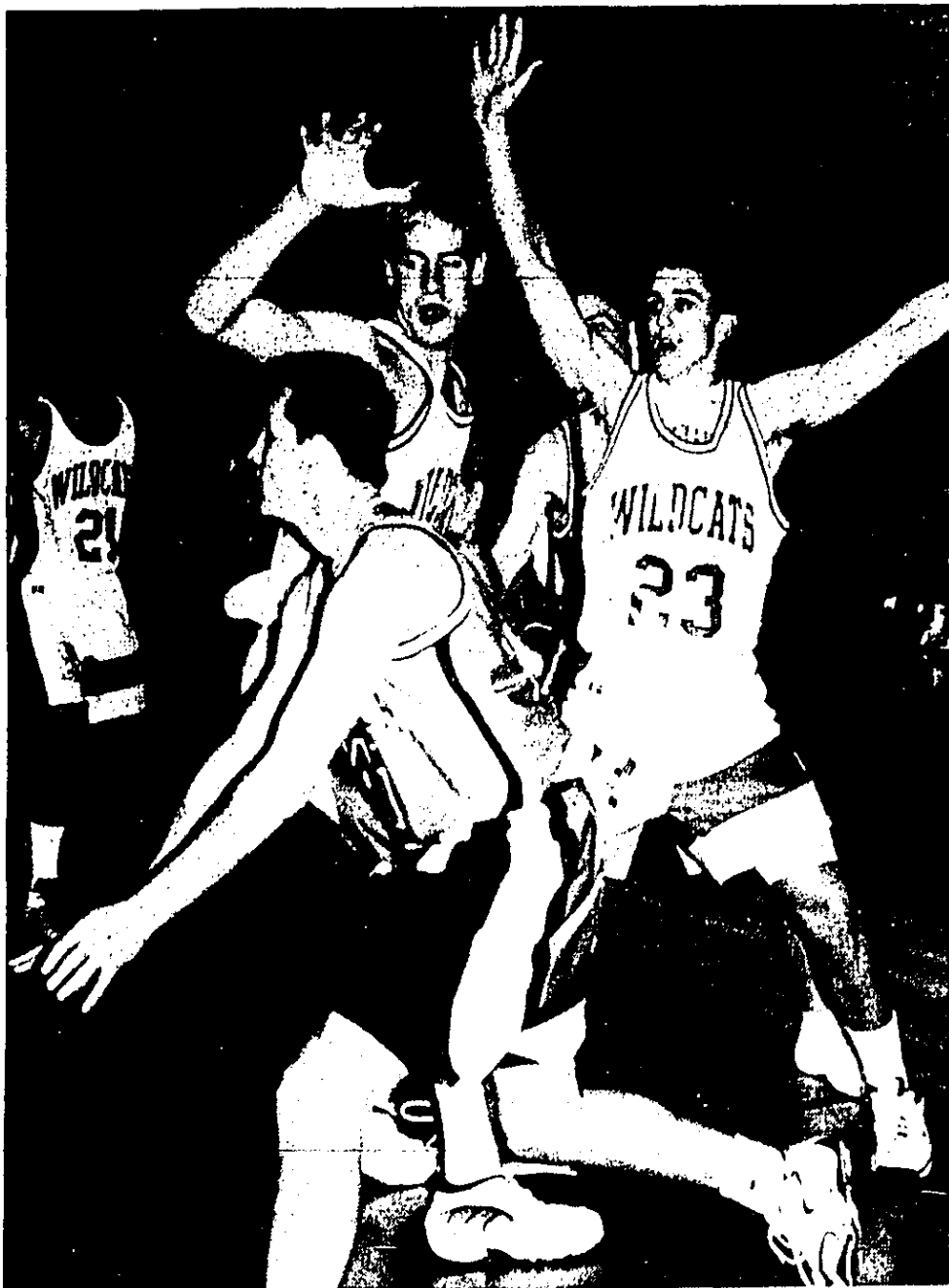


# No Recovery From Rusty Start



Wildcats Troy Johnson (23) and Ryan McKnight (35) turn up defensive intensity

After the Mulvane High School boys shook out all of the 1999 rust, they played pretty good basketball trying to win their first game of the season at home Tuesday night, Jan. 4, against Clearwater.

The Indians had too much of a lead for the Wildcats to catch up, though, and Mulvane tumbled to its sixth loss of the season by a 48-35 count.

In the junior varsity preliminary game, the Cats overcame a scoreless 3rd quarter and still had enough punch to plaster the Indian JVs, 34-26. In a sophomore game played against Derby, the visitors had too much for Mulvane's sophs to handle and rolled out to an easy 51-15 triumph.

For the varsity Cats under new coach John Darrow, it was a sluggish start that caused all the headaches. Mulvane trailed by halftime, 24-9, and made enough of a push at the end to give Darrow something to smile about.

"At the first part of the game, we weren't running the offense, we weren't executing like we should have and they took advantage of that," emphasized Darrow. "Toward the end of the 3rd quarter and in the 4th quarter, we started executing on offense and our defensive intensity improved tremendously. We started getting into the proper rotation and made some steals that led to easy baskets."

The rally fell short, but it was Mulvane play improved a great deal and the Cats started scoring some points, a problem for much of this season.

"In the first half, there was a lack of execution," added Darrow. "There were a number of events that helped that along—Christmas break, we had a lot of kids miss practices during the holidays because of vacations and the return of Jesse Marksberry. It was just a matter of getting refocused on the job and executing."

The game marked the return to action of Marksberry, who missed the first month of the season with personal problems. He is the only returning starter from last year's ball club.

Marksberry did, however, give the Wildcats their first double-figure scorer of the year. He finished with a team-high 13 points. Andy Hixson scored five points, guard Jason Wilson and Troy Johnson scored four each and Nick Pope had three points.

Top rebounders for the varsity were Johnson with six boards and Marksberry, Ryan McKnight and Jared Rice with five caroms each.

The MHS junior varsity out-scored Clearwater, 15-5, in the 2nd quarter to set the victory up. Nine Wildcats hit the scorebook with points and Brian Love (seven points), Jonathan Reed (six), Shawn Rogers (five) and Wilson (four) were the ringleaders.

The Cat jayvees had their troubles in the final game before the Christmas break. Playing at Chaparral Friday, Dec. 17, the Mulvane JV team lost a 46-32 contest to Chappy. Chris Gerhardt led the Mulvane scorers with nine points, Love finished with seven and Kyle McGuire had six points.

In the sophomore outing, Jimmie High and Jeremy Adams had five points each to power the Mulvane offense. Shawn Rogers and Phillip Major had two apiece.

#### Varsity Boys

Clearwater	15	9	10	14-48
Mulvane	4	5	9	17-35

Clearwater--Hastings 6, Jimmy Charles 17, Avila 9, Estep 3, Doll 2, Peck 4, Dalbom 4, Hamilton 2, Dugan 1 FG 14 (0), FT 20-34, F 19.

Mulvane--Jason Wilson 4, Chris Brannon 2, Nick Pope 3, Jared Rice 2, Andy Hixson 5, Jesse Marksberry 13, Troy Johnson 4, Ryan McKnight 2. FG 12 (1), FT 10-20, F 26

#### Junior Varsity Boys

Clearwater	11	5	6	4-26
Mulvane	11	15	0	8-34

Clearwater--Jamee Hazelton 5, James Lang 2, Ryan Henderson 5, Logan Mize 2, Matt Westbrook 8, Matt Gerlach 1. FG 9 (1), FT 7-17, F 20.

Mulvane--Brian Love 7, Chris Gerhardt 2, Ryan McKnight 3, Caleb Alexander 2, Andy Hixson 2, Jason Wilson 4, Kyle McGuire 3, Jonathan Reed 6, Shawn Rogers 5. FG 11 (0), FT 12-19, F 16

Mulvane	7	8	7	10-32
Chaparral	10	6	10	20-46

Mulvane--Shawn Rogers 4, Kyle McGuire 6, Chris Gerhardt 9, Troy Johnson 4, Brian Love 7. FG 14 (0), FT 4-13, F 16

Chaparral--Scott Easter 2, Justin Robinson 10, Drew Gerber 9, Russell Giesen 6, Regan Hostetler 5, Joel Troyer 5, Craig Hadsall 2, Alan Masner 5, Chris Cox 2. FG 20 (2), FT 7-12, F 16

#### Sophomore Boys

Derby	15	18	8	10-51
Mulvane	4	4	5	2-15

Derby--Jason Baker 6, Matt Garvey 5, Bryce Lang 6, Sam Bogden 3, Paul Ward 5, Tyson Fawley 12, Andy Hernandez 7, Ryan Dieckgrafe 3, Aaron Kirkhart 3, Avery Burrell 4. FG 20 (5), FT 6-11, F 17

Mulvane--Jimmie High 5, Shawn Rogers 2, Gregory Lange 1, Jeremy Adams 5, Phillip Major 2. FG 4 (0), FT 7-12, F 12