

Boys' Push Just Shy

Once they got started, the Wildcats from Mulvane High displayed their best offensive push of the season Tuesday night, Jan. 5, at Augusta High School.

But the first three quarters was too much to overcome and the host Orioles held on for a 78-63 triumph over the MHS boys in a Chisholm Trail League game, the first following the two-week holiday break.

Still, it was encouraging for Cat coach Dale Landes, who saw the Wildcats score their most points of the season. In fact, it was the most Mulvane scoring since last February when MHS scored 64 points against Augusta.

A 29-point fourth quarter helped cut down a 30-point Augusta lead. The lead actually got down to 12 points as Mulvane staged its furious rally trying to win its first game of the year, but the Orioles held on by hitting nine free throws in the final period in 14 tries.

"We just picked up the intensity (in the 4th quarter)," stressed Landes. "We played the kind of high intensity basketball I've been trying to get all along. The first three quarters, we just didn't do it."

Landes said the Cats went to a three-guard offense in the last period to take advantage of three-point land, and Mulvane gunners jammed three of them into the rally. "We shot the ball real tentatively the first three quarters but when we went with (Larry) Dixon, (Steve) Nelson and (Brian) Strack with Dan Smith and Jeff Parker underneath, things turned around," added Landes. "We just challenged the kids to play and inside-outside game. We asked the three seniors (guards) to shoot the ball up and Smith and Parker got it done on the inside."

After being down by as much as 30 points in the third quarter, the Mulvane five-some cut it to 12 but got into a fouling situation and Augusta started hitting. The last nine Oriole points were free throws.

The senior Strack canned a team-high 16 points, nine coming in the last period. Smith finished with 11 points, as did senior J.J. Dunn. Nelson scored 10 points and both Jason DeWald and Brian Heinrichs had four.

"Another big factor was defense," added Landes. "The kids picked up the intensity. I told the guards to just go out there and create as much havoc as possible while the other two played 'goaltender.' The problem with that is you sometimes take too many risks and get beat deep inside. That happened a little, but the problem was the first three quarters. We just didn't play with any intensity."

Landes also cited the sophomore Parker for a fine job in his quarter of play along with junior Chris Heersche, who "gave us some good minutes."

"Still, the bottom line is we are 0-7," added Landes. "I told the kids I was very proud of the way they came back in the last quarter, showing a lot of guts and determination, but overall, I was not pleased because we played with zero intensity in the first three quarters."

The Wildcat junior varsity also had a rough time at Augusta as the Orioles rolled to a 65-42 victory.

Heersche scored a career-high 18 points in that game to power the MHS offense. Other top jayvee scorers for Mulvane were Shay Vangas and Griff Comejo with 10 points apiece.

In the sophomore game, Augusta swept the Wildcats away by a 54-42 count. Shawn Erbert's 14 points headed up the Cat

offense. Dexter Carpenter scored 10 points and Tom Nienke had seven for the sophs.

The Wildcats finished 1992 with an 0-6 record under new coach Landes as the Cats had one of their poorest shooting halves of the season. That enabled previously winless Andale to grab the momentum on the way to a 56-53 victory in overtime Tuesday night, Dec. 22.

"Coming out with only two points in the first quarter really set the tone for us until we started shooting the ball better in the second half," stressed Landes. "We had a terrible first half shooting the ball. The kids were taking shots within the offense, shots in the paint but they wouldn't fall for us and that really hurt. These are shots we made earlier in the year. When you're not shooting the ball well, you have to play good defense and we had a few breakdowns during this same time, especially defending at the three-point line. They made a few of them and that hurt."

Junior center Jason DeWald's jumper was the only score of the first quarter for Mulvane, which enabled the Indians to scramble out to a 9-2 lead before the Cats warmed up in the second half, out-scoring Andale, 17-15. Four of Andale's baskets were three-pointers in the initial half.

The Indians added to their lead in the third quarter, pushing the margin to double figures before the Wildcats came back in the 4th quarter behind DeWald's six points and five by Brian Heinrichs.

The Cats finally tied the game in the final 25 seconds when Jeremy Kendrick hit a three-pointer and was fouled, making the score 49-47. He missed the free throw with 10 seconds left but DeWald got the rebound and scored to tie it up.

In overtime, Mulvane scored on its first possession but so did Andale. A turnover by the Cats turned out to be the telling blow as Andale scored a bucket. A foul on the same play led to a free throw, which was missed, but the Indians got the rebound and put it back in to take the lead for good.

"We played a lot better in the second half, especially in the fourth quarter," said Landes. "We picked up our defensive intensity and pressured turnovers from their guards in the last quarter to get back into the game after they had built up a 10-point lead. Overcoming that deficit shows these kids have a lot of pride."

"The thing we (the coaching staff) stressed about the Andale game was that it was a make-or-break game for us," added Landes. "Going into the Andale game, we were confident, but our poor shooting in the first half put us into position to have to come back the whole game."

DeWald finished with a dozen points. Strack and Heinrichs had nine apiece and senior J.J. Dunn scored seven points, six of them coming in the second quarter, as the MHS team got it started.

The Andale team improved its record to 1-4 for the season. Mulvane slipped to 0-6 as

the Cats prepared for Chisholm Trail League play. Next outing for MHS will be Friday night, Jan. 8, at home against Valley Center.

The Mulvane junior varsity put together its top effort of the season to win its first game and gunned down the visiting Indians, 58-54, in another tight contest. That improved the Cat jayvee record to 1-2 for the season.

The jayvee Wildcats held on despite missing seven free throws in the final quarter after going into the stretch run with an 8-for-10 showing at the stripe. Guard Chris Heersche had the big push late, scoring nine of his team-high 15 points in the last period.

Big sophomore center Jeff Parker also scored 14 points, Griff Comejo had 13 and Shay Vangas scored seven for the Wildcats.

| Varsity Boys | | | |
|--|----|----|-----------|
| Mulvane | 12 | 15 | 7 29--63 |
| Augusta | 24 | 20 | 17 17--78 |
| Mulvane--Steve Nelson 10, Brian Strack 16, Dan Smith 11, J.J. Dunn 11, Larry Dixon 3, Chris Heersche 1, Jeremy Kendrick 3, Brian Heinrichs 4, Jason DeWald 4. FG 22 (5), FT 14-21, F 24. | | | |

| Junior Varsity Boys | | | |
|--|----|----|-----------|
| Mulvane | 6 | 13 | 13 10--42 |
| Augusta | 13 | 16 | 15 21--65 |
| Mulvane--Chris Heersche 18, Jeff Carson 2, Jeff Parker 2, Shay Vangas 10, Griff Comejo 10. FG 18 (0), FT 6-14, F 25. | | | |

Augusta--Brian Turpin 24, Martin Shetlar 7, Travis Buell 9, Justin Kufahl 3, Geoff Markas 7, Lucas Sims 7, Brett Kapplaman 8. FG 22 (4), FT 17-24, F 12.

| Sophomore Boys | | | |
|---|----|----|----------|
| Mulvane | 20 | 13 | 10 9--42 |
| Augusta | 16 | 13 | 16 9--54 |
| Mulvane--Sean Younger 2, David Butler 4, Shawn Erbert 14, Dexter Carpenter 10, Casey Mills 2, Rick Maxwell 3, Tom Nienke 7. FG 19 (0), FT 3-12, F 19. | | | |

Augusta--Brian Turpin 6, Martin Shetlar 3, Travis Buell 7, Geoff Markas 5, Lucas Sims 15, Calvin Hubbard 5, Cody Howard 4, Troy Wallace 7. FG 17 (5), FT 15-26, F 17.

| Varsity Boys | | | |
|---|---|----|---------------|
| Andale | 9 | 15 | 15 19 (7)--56 |
| Mulvane | 2 | 17 | 10 20 (4)--53 |
| Andale--Jeremy McFadden 12, Chad Mohr 6, Tom Rauch 18, Derek Wilson 2, Pete May 17, Bill Monitor 1. FG 19-45 (6), FT 12-19, F 15. | | | |

Mulvane--J.J. Dunn 7, Brian Strack 9, Brian Heinrichs 9, Steve Nelson 4, Jason DeWald 12, Dan Smith 4, Larry Dixon 2, Jeremy Kendrick 6. FG 21-61 (3), FT 8-14, F 18.

| Junior Varsity Boys | | | |
|---|---|----|-----------|
| Andale | 8 | 14 | 10 22--54 |
| Mulvane | 9 | 16 | 15 18--58 |
| Andale--Jeremy Spexarth 4, Aaron Brasser 21, Julian Staab 3, Kyle Gorges 9, Mike Smarsh 1, Jimmy Aylward 8, Cory Rau 2, Steve Weber 6. FG 16 (3), FT 19-27, F 24. | | | |

Mulvane--Chris Heersche 15, Jeff Parker 14, Griff Comejo 13, Tom Nienke 2, Shay Vangas 7, Dexter Carpenter 5, Martin Dody 2. FG 23 (0), FT 12-21, F 22.

| Sophomore Boys | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| Did not play | | | |