

Wildcat Rally Falls Short, Circle Wins

If you take away the first quarter, the Mulvane High School Wildcats would have easily defeated the Circle Thunderbirds last Friday. Unfortunately, that's not the way that things go in high school basketball and the Birds held on to defeat the Cats, 58-55 at Towanda.

Mulvane got off to a miserable start, allowing Circle to move out to a 19-6 first period lead. This was extended to 21-6 shortly after the start of the second stanza. From that point on, it was all Mulvane. Senior Mark Cranston, returning to action from an ankle injury and sophomore Robbie Fry both got hot hands during the second period and helped pull Mulvane back into contention, 37-28 at intermission.

Mulvane's hustling press continued to cool the Birds and by the end of the third period, Mulvane trailed by four points — 45-41. In the opening two minutes of the final period,

Cranston, Fry and Jim Carr netted buckets to move Mulvane into a brief 47-45 lead. Down the stretch, the score was tied three times. With 2:34 remaining, Cranston netted two free throws to tie the count at 51-51.

Circle moved in front, 56-51, to stay on baskets by Randy Leimer and charity tossed by Frank Knowles and Tom Lambing. In fact, Circle's final five points came on free throws. Carr and Kent Hughes added late baskets, but Mulvane's rally fell three points short.

During the final three periods of the game, Mulvane outscored Circle, 49-39.

Again, Mulvane was plagued

by extremely cold shooting. The Wildcats hit 19 field goals of 58 attempts for a cool 32 percent for the game. Most coaches feel that you must hit at least 40 percent of your shots to win.

Mark Cranston paced the scoring for Mulvane with 21 points. Robbie Fry added 13 points. The box score: Kent Hughes 3-2-3; Jim Carr 3-3-1; Mark Brozek 1-0-5; David McKinney 0-0-5; Robbie Fry 5-3-3; Mark Cranston 8-5-2; Forrest Wise 0-2-3; Mike Nichols 0-0-0.

Cranston also led the rebounding for Mulvane with eight. Others on the rebounding chart were. Robbie Fry 7; Forrest Wise 5; David McKinney 4; Kent Hughes 2 and Mark Brozek 1.

Mulvane now has an 0-5 mark moving into the start of Chisholm Trail League play on Friday.

"B" TEAM LOSES

The Circle High School reserves rallied in the fourth period to take a 61-60 win over the Mulvane High School "B" team in the preliminary game.

Mulvane broke away from a 27-27 halftime deadlock to move out to a 49-40 lead at the end of the third period. During the final stanza, Circle's full court press hampered the Wildcats. Down the stretch, Brad Sorenson hit four consecutive buckets to keep the Cats in the contest.

Mike Alumbaugh led the scoring for Mulvane with 16 points. Jeff Crawford and Brad Sorenson had 10 points each. The box score: Robbie Fry 0-4-0; Mike Alumbaugh 8-0-1; Mike Nichols 4-0-4; Jeff Crawford 3-4-5; Brad Sorenson 5-0-4; Ed Stunkel 0-4-4; Dan Lawless 1-0-1; Leon Hicks 1-0-2;

Stunkel led the rebounding for the "B" team with 10 and Dan Lawless had six rebounds.