

Boys Battle For Confidence

Coach Ryan Herrs must be thinking about sending his Mulvane High School boys squad off to Marine boot camp.

That may be the quickest way to get some confidence, which has been one of the biggest bugaboos haunting the Wildcat boys this season. "We just really struggle with confidence," said Herrs. "We aren't very resilient and it's really costing us. We battled pretty good for most of the first quarter Friday night against Andover. I mean, we were in the fight most of the first quarter until we got a bad call, then it just shot our confidence. Our kids just need to learn to battle to overcome those kinds of things."

Andover used the late stages of the first quarter as a springboard toward an 82-48 decision Friday night, Jan. 5, in Mulvane in a Chisholm Trail League outing.

The game was the first since the Christmas holiday and left Coach Herrs' Cats at 0-6 for the year and 0-3 in the league.

With about two minutes left in the opening round, Mulvane was hanging right there with the Trojans. "It was about a five-point game with minute or so of the quarter but Andover came down and scored five points in the last three seconds of the quarter to make it a 10-point game," said Herrs. "After that, they just went off and left us. They scored lay-up after lay-up after lay-up and we just turned the ball over to them."

"Our confidence hasn't been good and that stretch just shot our confidence. Early in the game, we were being aggressive, we

30th Annual Roadrunner

Classic Boys Pairings

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

Game 1 — Pratt (3-3) vs. Andover JV (2-3), 6 p.m.

Game 2 — Chaparral (3-4) vs. Clearwater (3-5), 8

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

Game 3 — Campus (2-6) vs. Mulvane (0-7), 6 p.m.

Game 4 — Arkansas City (3-4) vs. Conway Springs (3-5), 8

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

Game 5 — losers of games 1 and 2, 3 p.m.

Game 6 — losers of games 3 and 4, 4:30

Game 7 — winners of games 1 and 2, 6:30

Game 8 — winners of games 3 and 4, 8

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of game 5 and 6, 2 p.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 6, 3:30

Game 11 (Third Place)—losers of games 7 and 8, 5:30

Game 12 (First Place)—winners of games 7 and 8, 7

were drawing some fouls and we were getting the ball to the post. We were executing pretty well."

After that, though, it was Andover's ball game. "Success breeds confidence and unless you've had some success, you don't have confidence," continued Herrs. "These kids haven't had much success. They just don't believe they can and that's one of the most important parts of anything—having confidence in what you're doing and believing in yourself and what you're doing. It can come from success and we're trying to have some success so we can build some confidence."

The Wildcats turn into their own worst enemies. Turnovers have been a problem

the entire season, and it was no different Friday night on the home floor. "We had a bunch of turnovers again and that continues to be a major problem," emphasized Herrs. "It also goes back to the confidence factor."

Herrs has been talking about breaking each game down into "moments." He has a favorite phrase: "playing in the moment." "We talk about that constantly," said Herrs. "You have to play for the moment and the most important time is now, this moment. Once this moment is gone, you put it behind you and play for the next moment. We're trying to get successful for this moment, then there is something we can build on, another moment and another."

There were some "moments" for the Cats Friday night. "One thing we did well was we shot a lot of free throws and we made a lot of them," said Herrs. "Another moment was the third quarter. We have been having trouble in the third quarter but against Andover, we scored 11 points and they scored 11. That's a moment. I'm just trying to get these guys to do their best on each of those moments."

Another bright spot was the play of sophomore guard Caleb Alexander, who came in in the second half and made the most of his "moment," pacing the MHS scoring with 12 points. "He's a hard-working kid who came in there and gave us some offense," said Herrs. "You'll probably see him play a little more as we continue to find the best combination."

Varsity Boys

Andover	24	16	11	31—82
Mulvane	11	10	11	16—48

Andover—Tyler Sperry 5, Andy Biggs 13, Caley Lawson 3, Wade Martin 19, Peiffer 6, Daniel Gonzales 3, Derek Diehl 11, Matt Johnson 14, Chad Freeman 5, Bryan Ziegler 3, FG 32 (4), FT 14-23, F 26.

Mulvane—Chris Gerhardt 10, Andy Hixson 4, Ryan McKnight 4, Jason Wilson 4, Brian Love 2, Luke Gunter 3, Caleb Alexander 12, Jason Phillips 4, Jonathan Reed 4, FG 14 (0), FT 20-32, F 17.

Junior Varsity Boys

Andover	20	19	21	19—79
Mulvane	8	13	12	12—45

Andover—Nate Caulk 14, Daniel Gonzalez 15, Bryan Ziegler 15, Caley Lawson 2, Derek Diehl 12, Mike Archioppi 16, David Lee 5, FG 34 (1), FT 10-16, F 14.

Mulvane—Kale Regier 7, Dusty Sorensen 4, Caleb Alexander 4, Luke Gunter 8, Tyler Hennes 14, Jeremy Adams 8, FG 19 (4), FT 3-9, F 18.

Senior Chris Gerhardt also chipped in with some offense, scoring 10 points. Jason Phillips and Jonathan Reed, both coming off the bench, Andy Hixson, Ryan McKnight and Jason Wilson all hit four points for the game.

In the junior varsity game, the Trojans were flying too high for Mulvane's JV to catch as they raced to a 79-45 verdict. Tyler Hennes was the top scorer for the JV Cats with 14 points. Luke Gunter and Jeremy Adams scored eight and Kale Regier scored seven points.

The MHS boys will travel to Andale Friday night, Jan. 12, their finale tune-up game prior to the 40th annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic, which opens Wednesday, Jan. 17. The Cats will play Thursday, Jan. 18, in the 6 p.m. game against Campus.