

Wildcat Boys Bury Myth

Life's "sure things" list is one item short these days. It used to be the only sure things in life were death, taxes and Buhler basketball. Death and taxes live on.

Coach Charlie Mason's Mulvane High School boys helped bury the myth of Buhler basketball Friday night, Jan. 9, in the first action of the new year for the Wildcat cagers. Mulvane rocked out to a commanding lead, then settled back to claim a 76-54 victory over the Crusaders in a Chisolm Trail League Division I clash.

The victory pumped up Mulvane's record to 6-1 and 2-0 in the league while Buhler, the defending CTL champs, tumbled to 1-6 and 1-1 in the loop.

Both the Mulvane junior varsity and the Cat sophomores fell to Buhler. The Crusaders rambled to a 65-54 decision in the junior varsity game and the Buhler sophs routed Mulvane, 54-34.

The Cats roared out to a 10-2 lead after the first three minutes of the game and blew things open in the second quarter as Todd Fox, Andrew Swayne, Kyle Steadman and Morgan LeClair took turns pouring in points. When the dust cleared, Mulvane held a 36-19 lead with 2:29 left in the half. Two other factors contributed to the drubbing--Buhler turnovers and a hot hand from the field by Mulvane.

"It turned out not to be as difficult a game as I thought it would be," admitted Mason. "We came out and did the things we had to do. We got the ball inside and our people inside scored. Our defense took over and forced them into some turnovers. We got them out of it early."

Mason didn't know what to expect going into the contest. The Cats had not played since the tournament loss in December. And Buhler played on Tuesday, working the cobwebs out, but the Crusaders were no match for Mulvane.

"I was concerned because Buhler had played and it's been a long time for us, but it didn't seem to have any effect on us," added Mason. "It was a good game to come back off the Christmas break. I thought we'd come out a little flat because of the three-week layoff but we came out and flat took it to them, which is what we needed to do. We never let them get back in the game."

Good shooting and the Crusaders' inability to handle the Mulvane pressure was a fatal duo for the visitors. The Wildcats shot 60 percent (14 of 23) in the second period and the pestering Mulvane defense kept Buhler befuddled much of the game.

"We tapered off in the second half and finished lower but we hit about 50 percent in the first half," said Mason. "That good shooting plus the fact that we forced a bunch of turnovers--about 25 with many of those leading scores--those were the crucial facts of the game. We dictated the things we wanted to do, which is untypical of a Buhler team. We tried to keep the pressure on them all night because we didn't feel like they had what you'd call a point guard. We felt that was the area we could make some big strides. Too, Buhler's inexperienced."

Most of the second half, Mason spent shuffling players in and out to keep a fresh five on the court for pressuring purposes. "It was a total team effort," remarked Mason. "Swayne carried us early, then Fox and LeClair. And with (Curtis) Hicks and Steadman dishing out 13 assists, somebody's getting the good shots."

Both seniors Fox and LeClair were in double figures by intermission. They combined for eight buckets in the third quarter. Fox, one of the top scorers in the area, finished with 16 points and LeClair was one point behind at 15. Every single player scored for the Cats. Hicks scored 10 points, and Steadman and Swayne finished with nine and eight points, respectively, and reserve Toby Butcher was the best of the rest, hitting six points.

For Coach Bruce Eitzen's jayvees, Shay Cornejo led the scorers with 19 points and Neal Hamilton and Toby Butcher scored 12 and 11, respectively.

In the sophomore game, Mulvane was paced by 13 points from Sean Gillespie. Andrew Hodges was next high with eight points and John Heinrichs had four.

The Wildcats will be back in action

Friday night, Jan. 16, in Wellington in their final tune-up prior to the Roadrunner Classic next week. The Wellington game is a Chisolm Trail game.

Varsity Boys

Buhler	10 25 13 16--54
Mulvane	16 28 14 18--76
Buhler--Tim Lackey 13, Doug Martens 11, James Regehr 8, Eric White 6, Shane Wiehl 4, Chad Comley 4, Brad Williams 3, Corey Henning 3, Mike Smith 2. FG 21-60, FT 12-16, F 16.	
Mulvane--Andrew Swayne 8, Morgan LeClair 15, Todd Fox 16, Curtis Hicks 10, Kyle Steadman 9, Lyle Graybeal 3, Bryson Butts 2, Jeff Williams 4, Shay Cornejo 2, Toby Butcher 6, Neal Hamilton 1. FG 34-75, FT 8-19, F 12.	

Boys Junior Varsity

Buhler	9 22 15 19--65
Mulvane	8 17 16 13--54
Buhler--Tim Lackey 9, Mike Smith 5, Rick Young 2, Kyle McGrillivray 24, James Regehr 3, Brian Haugness 22. FG 28-62, FT 9-15, F 17.	
Mulvane--Shay Cornejo 19, Toby Butcher 11, Neal Hamilton 12, Russell Norden 6, Norman Bowen 2, Jeremy Hoenscheidt 2, Pat Lockwood 2. FG 23-58, FT 8-19, F 13.	

Sophomore Boys

Buhler	14 16 22 2--54
Mulvane	11 9 8 6--34
Buhler--Jason Surface 6, Greg Morris 6, Keith Hageman 10, Russell Burke 4, Greg Haugness 8, Brian Haugness 2, Steve Ashcraft 10, Brian Yutzy 2, Brian Miller 4, Darrel Schroeder 2. FG 27, FT 0-1, F 17.	
Mulvane--Jo Nordenadler 3, Brian Smith 1, Sean Gillespie 13, John Heinrichs 4, Mike Higgins 2, Andrew Hodges 8, Larry Lambrecht 3. FG 14, FT 6-15, F 8.	