

# Cats Take Rose Hill To Wire

The only thing that would wipe out a bad taste is a victory. The Mulvane High School boys didn't get that, but they took away a lot of the bad taste from a horrid seven-point showing earlier this year when they took Rose Hill to the wire in a Chisholm Trail League outing at Rose Hill Friday, Jan. 14.

The host Rockets rallied after trailing by a 23-20 halftime count to subdue the Wildcats, 53-44. The loss kept the Cats winless at 0-8 as they head into the Roadrunner Classic at Chaparral.

"That first game definitely was a motivational factor," emphasized John Darrow, the MHS boys coach. "I used it in practice and I reminded the kids about the 55-7 beating and just told them when the bus leaves. They took it personally, I think, and they weren't going to let it happen again. The kids responded well and nearly pulled it off. We had our best week of practice and they

came out and showed people they were a lot better than that first meeting."

In that one, the Cats had 38 turnovers and had difficulty getting across the time line. It was a much different ball game Friday night.

"We came out and played well once again, we really did," said Darrow. "We had a chance to take the lead in the last quarter but we missed some shots and didn't execute as well defensively as we should have in the last two or three minutes of the ball game."

The Wildcats didn't take long to shatter the "seven-point myth." In the first four minutes of the first quarter, Mulvane had more points than they did the whole game in the Douglass Tournament against Rose Hill, and the Cats kept the pressure on to gain a three-point lead by intermission. In fact, they held Rose Hill to only three points in the 2nd quarter. The Rockets regained their composure in the last half and took the lead.

"We were within three points with about

three or four minutes to go but they hit a bucket and we came down and missed," said Darrow. "After that we tried to foul and hoped to trade two or three for one, but they made their free throws. We gave ourselves a chance to win the ball game and that's all you can hope for."

Darrow felt the biggest change from the first game against Rose Hill was patience. "That was the single biggest difference in our ability to be in the ball game," said Darrow. "We were patient on offense and that goes back to execution. We passed the ball a lot better in this one and we hit the open man. Part of the reason we were able to hit the open man is that he was where he was supposed to be and that makes all the difference in the world."

"We still had too many turnovers, 18 of them, but we cut down on the turnovers tremendously. When you go against a pressing team, you're going to have some, but as it turned out, we also had a lot of easy baskets when we broke their press."

Darrow said the coaching staff wanted to swap defenses often to keep RH off-balance and that plan worked. "It was especially effective in the second quarter," said the Wildcat coach. "We changed defenses the whole quarter and that kind of confused them a little bit. And we also did a much better job on the boards. In the second quarter, they got one shot at the basket and that was it. We got the rebounds just about every time on the defensive end."

The Rockets came back in the third

quarter behind a 17-11 surge to regain the lead. "Rose Hill made some adjustments in the second half and they got some offensive rebounds that they weren't getting early," said Darrow. "But our kids played hard out there and that's all you can ask. They left everything on the court. We had a chance to win, we were right there. The kids are getting close and they're continuing to work hard. I think it's a tribute to our kids that they came back in this game and kept working to get the win. Eventually, I think we'll push it over the top."

Guard Chris Brannon had his best game, scoring 11 points, including three three-pointers. Troy Johnson finished with eight points, Jared Rice and Jesse Marksberry finished with six apiece and Chris Gerhardt scored five.

In the junior varsity game, the Wildcats let a one-point halftime lead slip in the second half and lost a 57-50 contest to the Rocket jayvees.

Ryan McKnight led the offense for Mulvane with 10 points. Kyle McGuire scored nine points. Jonathan Reed finished with seven and Shawn Rogers had five points.

The Cat JV team also lost to Circle Tuesday, Jan. 11, when the Thunderbirds came to Mulvane. The score was 53-20. High scorers for the Wildcat JVs were Rogers, Gerhardt and McKnight with four points apiece.



Mulvane's Troy Johnson (23) glides along the baseline toward the bucket against RH

## Chaparral Roadrunner Boys Classic Pairings

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Game 1 -- Kingman (6-2) vs. Mulvane (0-8), 6 p.m.

Game 2 -- Chaparral (4-4) vs. Conway Springs (3-5), 8

Thursday, Jan. 20

Game 3 -- Medicine Lodge (6-1) vs. Clearwater (2-6), 6 p.m.

Game 4 -- Arkansas City (4-5) vs. Campus (3-6), 8

Friday, Jan. 21

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. 22

Game 9 (Seventh Place) -- losers of games 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

### Varsity Boys

Mulvane	11	12	11	10	44
Rose Hill	17	3	17	16	53

Mulvane -- Chris Brannon 11, Jared Rice 6, Troy Johnson 8, Jason Wilson 2, Jesse Marksberry 6, Nick Pope 4, Ryan McKnight 2, Chris Gerhardt 5. FG 20 (3), FT 1-4, F 12

Rose Hill -- B.J. Whitelock 15, Nick Kerr 3, Ryan Daugherty 7, Chris Schneider 17, Todd Brittingham 3, Joe Chandler 1, Phil Harden 7. FG 21 (5), FT 6-11, F 8

### Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	14	15	10	11	50
Rose Hill	15	14	13	15	57

Mulvane -- Kyle McGuire 9, Jeremy Adams 4, Shawn Rogers 5, Jonathan Reed 7, Caleb Alexander 3, Phillip Major 2, Jason Wilson 4, Troy Johnson 2, Chris Gerhardt 4, Ryan McKnight 10. FG 19 (0), FT 2-7, F 12

Rose Hill -- David Dickerson 28, Brian Boyd 3, Ryan Sanson 12, J.D. Utah 4, Brett Cox 2, Jordan Johnson 2, Jason LeMaster 1, Chris Palmer 4. FG 19 (10), FT 9-13, F 15

Circle	23	10	15	5	53
Mulvane	2	9	4	5	20

Circle -- Jason Farner 9, Matt Hobbs 6, Chris Trotter 4, Nathan Brown 2, Justin Farner 4, Blake Adams 5, John Brenner 1, Tyler Gottschalk 6, John Hecker 9, Marcus Engels 4, Brian Goldsmith 3. FG 24 (3), FT 2-9, F 11

Mulvane -- Jonathan Reed 2, Shawn Rogers 4, Jeremy Adams 3, Kyle McGuire 3, Chris Gerhardt 4, Ryan McKnight 4. FG 8 (1), FT 3-6, F 14