

Boys Gaining Steam; Blow Past Chappy

Another good start. More good shooting. Sounds like a winning combination, and it was for the Mulvane High School Wildcat boys Friday night, Jan. 16, at Chaparral.

The Wildcats had a carbon copy game to their last outing at Clearwater and came away at Chappy with their second straight road triumph using almost the identical game plan as they thumped the Roadrunners, 71-62, in a Chisholm Trail League game.

The victory improved Mulvane's record to 5-4 overall and to 2-4 in the league. Chappy slipped to 3-5 and 1-3 in the CTL.

Mulvane bolted out the door with a 20-point first quarter, then out-scored the Roadrunners, 20-10, in the second quarter to hold a commanding, 40-26, advantage at intermission.

"They tried to press us in the first half and we got a lot of key buckets off it," said Mulvane coach Todd Barker. "But I felt like the key to the game was that we kept them off-balance the whole game by mixing our defenses up. We switched back and forth between a zone and a man-to-man the whole game and they seemed to have trouble adjusting to the changes."

It also didn't hurt that Chaparral got into early foul trouble. In fact, one of Chappy's key inside players picked up three quick personal fouls in the first quarter and was removed from the game in the second quarter after two quick technicals. "Our bench was a lot deeper than theirs and that enabled us to take advantage of the situation," said Barker. "When their other big kids got into foul trouble, we'd bring in (6-foot, 9-inch) Rob Parker and he'd do some damage and get his points, then we'd take him out for a spell. Every time one of their big kids went to the sidelines, we'd put Rob back in there and he'd get some more points. He was pretty productive."

Parker finished with 15 points, second on the team to senior Bryce Schumacher, who had another king-sized game. He scored 26 points, including a 12-for-14 effort at the free throw stripe. Senior Dan

McElroy scored nine points, Darrin Erbert had seven and Chad Gerwick finished with six points.

"We got into some foul trouble, too, but we were able to handle it better," said Barker. "And we shot the ball well from the field. We were 18 of 33 (55%) from the field. That was another key to victory. When we shoot well, we do well. That's the name of the game. There definitely is a correlation between shooting and winning. For one thing, when everybody's hitting, it helps them keep their heads in the game. They seem to play a little harder on the defensive end as well as the offensive end when they're making shots. And when someone like Bryce is doing well, like the other night, it's kind of contagious. It starts falling into place for everybody else."

Revenge played a small role in the Wildcats' good start. "The kids were sitting around before the game talking about how they got thumped over here in football and they wanted to go out and do some thumping of their own," said Barker. "It was good motivation for our kids, and it was good to see them go out and do it."

The Wildcats also took advantage of Chaparral's attempt to press in the second quarter. "They came at us with a press and we got going through it pretty good," said Barker, noting that's when the Cats built up a double digit lead. "Everything seemed to click, and we also got to the boards better."

Down the stretch, Mulvane continued to hold together and hit free throws. "They came back on us a little but we were just trying to get out of there because it was getting sloppy," said Barker. "We also had some foul trouble. Just about everybody had three or four fouls so we played a little passively. We didn't play as aggressively as we could have and started playing it close to the best. We had talked about taking care of a lead and really we didn't do that badly at it."

What was it with Schumacher, though. Down the stretch, Chappy seemed to want to foul him and he hammered them home, making 12 out of 14, many of them down the stretch to help keep some distance between Mulvane and the Roadrunners. "Bryce stepped up in the 4th quarter and was hitting them," said Barker. "They seemed to want to foul him even though he was hitting them. I would be glad to let him shoot free throws all night long."

The two CTL teams played it close on the boards with Mulvane grabbing 29 rebounds to 28 for the Roadrunners. Sophomore Jesse Marksberry was the top board man for the Cats with nine rebounds. Parker finished with five boards and both McElroy and Schumacher had four apiece.

27th Annual Roadrunner Classic Pairings

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

Game 1 — Medicine Lodge (5-4) vs. Nickerson (3-6), 6 p.m.

Game 2 — Chaparral (3-6) vs. Clearwater (2-7), 8 p.m.

TODAY (JAN. 22)

Game 3 — Conway Springs (8-1) vs. Campus (0-10), 6 p.m.

Game 4 — Mulvane (5-4) vs. Arkansas City (2-7), 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

Game 5 — losers of games 3 and 4, 3 p.m.

Game 6 — losers of games 1 and 2, 4:30 p.m.

Game 7 — winners of games 3 and 4, 6:30 p.m.

Game 8 — winners of games 1 and 2, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

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 p.m.

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

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

"I'm certainly feeling better about things," said Barker after the Cats snapped a three-game losing streak with back-to-back wins. "We have Ark City next in the (Roadrunner Classic) tournament. We've played them some good games in the past. They like to play up-tempo, too, and we have No. 1 seeded Conway Springs on the other side of the bracket, but I still like our chances. This is the best chance we've had of doing something over there since I've been here."

The Wildcats are idle until the opening round game against Arkansas City at 8 p.m. tonight (Jan. 22) in the 27th annual Roadrunner Classic.

Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Circle	5	0	10	0
Kingman	3	1	7	1
Andale	2	1	6	4
Roe Hill	2	3	3	8
Mulvane	2	4	5	4
Chaparral	1	3	3	5
Clearwater	0	4	2	7

DIVISION I

Buhler	4	0	8	0
Andover	4	1	6	1
Goddard	3	1	6	3
Augusta	2	3	5	4
Maize	1	3	4	4
Valley Center	1	3	1	8
Wellington	0	4	0	8

Tournament Games This Week

Chaparral Roadrunner Classic--Mulvane, Chaparral, Clearwater
Halstead's Adolph Rupp Invitational--Roe Hill, Andale
Eldorado Bluestem Classic--Circle
McPherson Invitational--Andover, Buhler
Baldwin Tournament--Augusta
Dodge City Tournament of Champions--Wellington, Kingman
Valley Center Tournament--Goddard, Valley Center
Kansas City Wyandotte Invitational--Maize

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	20	20	16	15-71
Chaparral	16	10	16	20-62

Mulvane—Dan McElroy 9, Bryce Schumacher 26, Jesse Marksberry 5, Rob Parker 15, Darrin Erbert 7, Chad Gerwick 6, Sean Holman 3. FG 23 (5), FT 20-31, F 21.

Chaparral—Kevin Kunz 10, Dustin Smithhiser 10, Kyle Carothers 12, Chris Stevens 14, Richie Barrett 8, Jeremy Shue 4, Kirk Moore 2, Lyle Redgate 2. FG 23 (0), FT 16-22, F 26.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	18	19	13	14-69
Chaparral	8	13	8	10-39

Mulvane—Brian Dinkel 9, Jake Wilkinson 6, Randy Johnson 10, Brian McColpin 9, Jesse Marksberry 6, Garrett Hernes 15, Tom Anderson 7, Josh Hanson 2. FG 26 (1), FT 11-16, F 12.

Chaparral—Eddy Spears 5, Aaron Schule 6, Alan Patterson 11, Ryan Hoopes 3, Russell Jelinek 4, Lyle Redgate 2, Jeremy Shue 6, Taylor Armstrong 2. FG 16 (2), FT 5-11, F 17.

Sophomore Boys

Mulvane	9	6	10	12-37
Chaparral	18	19	19	4-62

Mulvane—Ryan Hively 4, Nick Pope 8, Josh Hanson 6, Derek Paul 6, Jared Rice 11, Tom Anderson 2. FG 16 (0), FT 5-12, F 19.

Chaparral—Blake Ballman 9, Ross Cleveland 20, David Dieker 8, Jason Bauer 6, Rodney Hess 2, Aaron Shule 7, Alan Patterson 4, Russell Jelinek 6. FG 27 (1), FT 7-17, F 11.