

Win Slips Away

Heartbreak--The Hard Way

Coach Ryan Herra and his Mulvane Wildcat boys found a new way to have heart-break Friday night, Jan. 17, at Goddard.

It probably was not new to the world, but it was certainly new for the Wildcats.

playing a team everyone thought would help the Cats break out of a four-game tail-spin. Instead, it was one game of pain. The host Lions rallied from 12 points behind, taking advantage of 10 missed free throws

down the stretch that gave Goddard more lives than any cat should have. Finally, in two overtimes, Mulvane blinked and Goddard didn't on the way to a double overtime victory by a 68-58 score.

"We missed 20 free throws in that game, how do you win a game missing 20 free throws," asked Coach Herra rhetorically. "God bless these kids, they cried and cried after the game because they knew they had an opportunity and let it slip away."

It was a tough one to swallow. The Wildcats went into the game with a 2-6 record and Goddard came in seeking its first success of the season after seven losses.

"The kids played their hearts out, they did everything we asked them to do," said Herra. "We took a nine-point lead into the last quarter after leading all the way but we had some turnovers down the stretch and that just killed us. We clinched. The mental aspect of the game was that the kids were scared to death because of past performances. That's part of it, but it also is the mentality that no one we have is used to winning, so to start winning games, we have to do things perfectly."

Herra said the Lions turned up the heat in the 4th quarter with several different styles of pressure "and we started turning the ball over bang, bang, bang, bang, just like that," said Herra. "We also stopped defending people, too."

Mulvane played briskly from the start and rolled to an early lead. "I told our guys we needed to be aggressive, attack them early and take it right at them and they did that," stressed Herra. "Our kids were absolutely, positively aggressive. And during the game we talked about playing to win but when that time got here, we weren't playing like we were comfortable. We began to play protect instead of to win."

And that gave Goddard the crack the Lions needed to slip back in the ball game. The Cats ended up with 22 turnovers, probably 10 of them in the final stages of the second half. And they made only 17 of 37 from the free throw line.

Boys Varsity

Mulvane	17	15	11	8	4	3	58
Goddard	9	12	13	17	4	13	68

Mulvane -- Greg Flores 17, Luke Gunter 4, Gavin Snider 7, Zach Kimble 16, Tyler Hennes 3, Dustin Sorensen 2, Nick Hansen 6, Grant Snider 2, Jason Turner 1, FG 20/41, FT 14/33, F 24.

Goddard -- Antwan Seymour 16, Ryan Bohanan 12, Austin Burns 12, Andy Womack 16, Tyler Weber 4, Josh Riesgo 8, FG 22/35, FT 21/34, F 21.

Junior Varsity Boys

Buhler	18	16	19	19	22
Mulvane	10	6	7	13	36

Buhler -- Shawn Davis 1, Nathan Cox 8, Andrew Epp 8, Brian Lewis 19, Brandon Walker 4, Britt Streck 6, Bret Williamson 6, Nate Goering 5, Jake Sawatzky 15, FG 29/51, FT 9/18, F 17.

Mulvane -- Logan Sorensen 11, Mason Leonard 6, Tyler Dale 2, Kris Stephens 2, Jason Turner 6, Kie Mangus 3, Cody Morton 6, FG

32rd Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Boys Classic

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

Game 1 -- Kingman vs. Conway Springs, 6 p.m.

Game 2 -- Clearwater vs. Mulvane, 8

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

Game 3 -- Andover Central vs. Arkansas City, 6 p.m.

Game 4 -- Winfield vs. Chaparral, 8

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

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. 25

"There were a lot of missed opportunities there," agreed Herra. "As a team, we had been hitting in the high 60 percent but we went cold at the wrong time. We had every opportunity to win that ball game but we tend to invent new ways to lose ball games."

One of those ways was in the final seconds of regulation with junior Greg Flores, who has developed into Mulvane's most consistent scorers this season, but this time he missed two free throws. "Greg was so down after the game," said Herra. "He felt like he let the team down by missing those two free throws. But he was up there with a patch over his eye and missing a contact. If I was a betting man, I'd bet he will never miss those shots again."

Flores was a whirlwind out there against the Lions, though. He finished with a game-high 17 points. Zach Kimble finished with 16 points for the Cats. Gavin Snider had seven points, Nick Hansen scored six points and Luke Gunter scored four.

"We still feel that pain four days after the game," added Herra. "I think our guys learned something from that game. They say you learn from your losses and I think we did. We were not out-manned, we were not out-hustled, we were not out-worked. We could have won that ball games."

So, the Wildcats will jump into the Chaparral Roadrunner Classic this week with so much still to prove and a 2-7 record. The Cats, seeded 5th, were to have played No. 4 seeded Clearwater at 8 p.m. Wednesday night, Jan. 22. A win would put MHS in the 6:30 p.m. game Friday, Jan. 24, and a loss in the 1st round would put the Cats in the 3 p.m. game Friday.

The Wildcat junior varsity had its hands full with Buhler Tuesday night, Jan. 14, the Crusaders dishing out a 72-36 beating to the Cats. Logan Sorensen scored 11 points to pace the Mulvane JV offense. Mason Leonard, Jason Turner and Cody Morton scored six points each for the Cats.

Class 4A Sub-State

Basketball Assignments

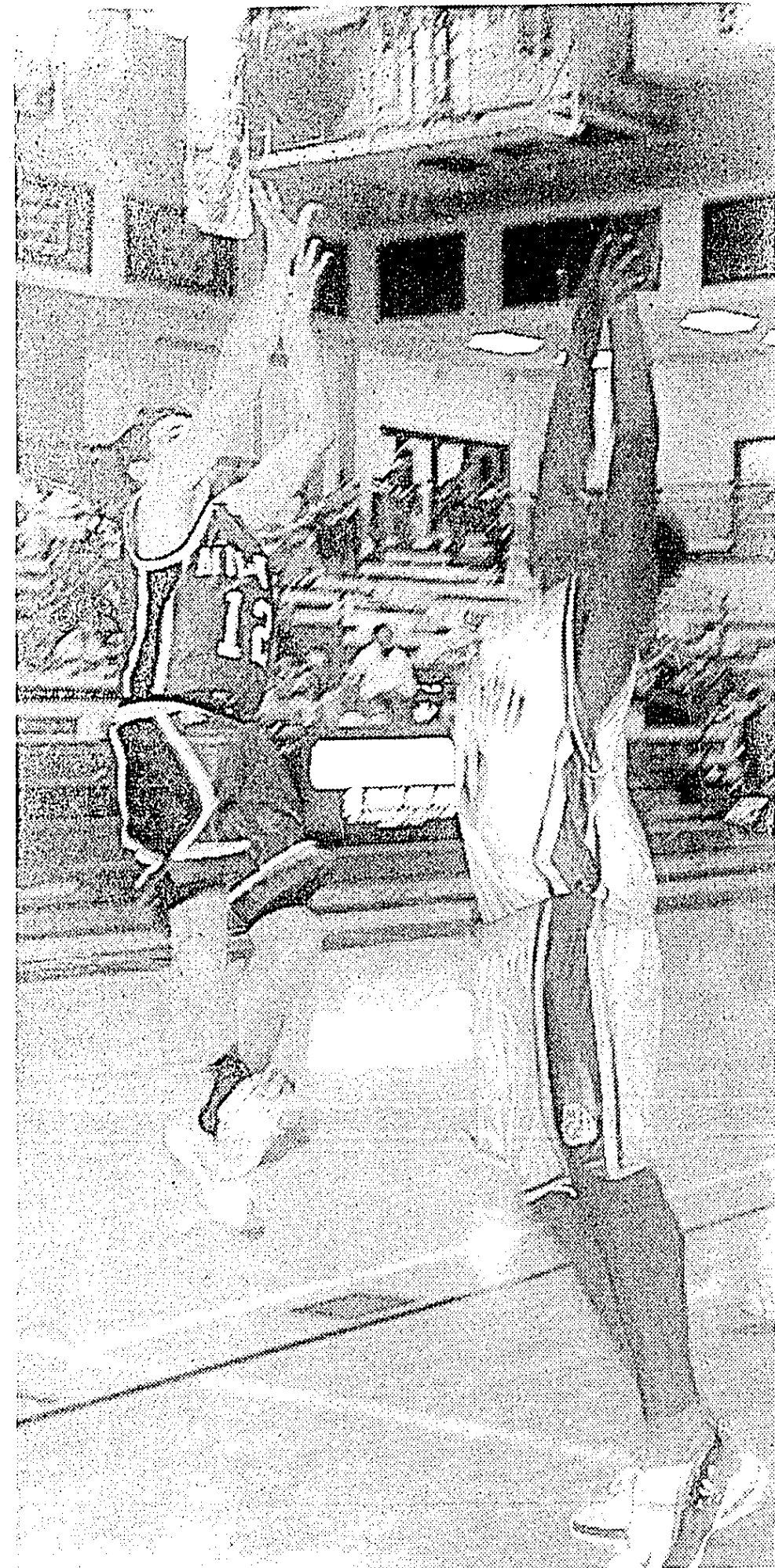
March 6-8

AT DOUGLASS

Mulvane, Andover, Rose Hill, Circle, Andover Central, El Dorado, Council Grove, Douglass

AT ANDALE

Wellington, Clearwater, Kingman, Andale, Smoky Valley, Haven, Chaparral, Nickerson



Mulvane senior Luke Gunter (12) drills a bucket over Goddard defender