

Offense Sours Cat Hopes



The offense continued to stagger for Coach Charlie Mason's Mulvane High School boys and even a meeting from out of the past wasn't enough to shake the offense loose.

The Wildcats tumbled to dead last Saturday, Jan. 20, in the 19th annual Roadrunner Boys Basketball Classic at Chaparral High School. Pratt and Mulvane tried to relive some old memories Saturday afternoon in the game for seventh place, but even that wasn't enough to get the Mulvane offense going and Pratt blistered Mulvane, 77-39.

In previous (good) times, Pratt and Mulvane have staged some tremendous bouts for the tourney championship but not this time as both schools' programs have fallen on hard times.

Mulvane opened the tourney with No. 8 seed and were flattened, 77-47, by Chaparral's hosts after probably playing their best half of the entire tournament that Wednesday evening, Jan. 17. Clearwater sacked Mulvane, 77-58, in a consolation semifinal Friday afternoon, Jan. 19.

Arkansas City captured the tournament title Saturday night with a 49-47 triple overtime thriller over Chappy.

"We didn't put four quarters together the entire tournament," said Mason. "We had a good first half against Chaparral, we played Clearwater even for the second half and against Pratt, there just wasn't too much period."

The trio of losses dropped Mulvane to 0-11 for the season and to 16 in a row. The Cats' last victory came Feb. 7, 1989, at Andover.

"I thought we could compete with a couple of those teams but we didn't" added Mason. "We don't have a lot of scoring. We don't have anybody we can go to inside. Everybody's playing a zone and we haven't been shooting the ball. Against a man-to-man, we seem to do pretty good. It's just tough to go up against a zone when you don't have a lot of good offensive players."

This season, Mulvane has been able to average only 44.9 points an outing.

The best showing for the Cats came in the opening round game. Mulvane played extremely well in the first half and held a 38-32 lead at intermission, their first lead at halftime this year.

"We did the things we had to do in the first half and they played us man to man," said Mason. "They really don't have a very good man to man and they had beaten us by 36 the first time we played, so I imagine they weren't ready to play. Hard work can compensate for a lot of things, but when the talent decides to work, talent takes over."

The Roadrunners came out in the third quarter, quickly scoring 10 consecutive

points, and the rout was on. Chaparral out-scored Mulvane, 45-9, in the second half.

Three Wildcats were in double figures, however. Sophomore Gary Cleverdon scored 13 points, senior Curtis Norden had 11 and Bill Harrington scored 10 points for Mulvane, which was playing without top scorer Jeff Sisco, a 6-foot, 6-inch senior who was injured on the last play of the previous game. He missed the entire tournament and Mason said he wasn't sure when Sisco could return to the line-up.

Mulvane quickly fell behind Clearwater before giving the Indians their second victory of the season. Clearwater out-scored Mulvane, 46-27, in the opening half and the rest was downhill.

Guard Todd Butcher, a senior, had one of his better games, scoring 10 points and Norden also came on strong with 15 points. Cleverdon topped the MHS effort with 16 points.

"We came out and stood around in the first half," said Mason. "We don't have the capability to put up much of a comeback so that was the ball game. When you don't stop the other side from scoring, it makes it doubly tough to catch up, and we compounded our problem by going three for 16 from the free throw stripe."

Against the Greenbacks, Mulvane's offense sputtered in single digits through the first three quarters to enable Pratt, a five-time winner of this tournament, to jump out



Cats' Bill Harrington (45) can't stop the shot in Roadrunner Classic

to a handsome 32-18 halftime bulge that grew to 56-25 blowout after three frames.

Harrington's 12 points were the high spots for the Wildcats. Cleverdon and Butcher had five each and Jarrod Oldridge, a sophomore, and Norden had four points each. Junior Andy Mackey and senior Todd Hedstrom scored three each.

"We'll just try to go back to the drawing board and work harder," stressed Mason. "I don't know where we can find some scoring but we have to."

The Wildcats will be back on the hardwoods for a home game Friday, Jan. 26, when Wellington comes to town for a Chisholm Trail League game.

Roadrunner Classic

FINAL ROUND

Seventh Place

Pratt	13	19	24	22	77
Mulvane	9	9	7	14	39

Pratt—Chad Ross 11, Brian Swafford 6, Spence Schoen 10, Terry Cunningham 8, Larry Hoeme 16, Brandon Forsberg 4, Craig Reynolds 2, Lance Schoen 8, Andy Thieme 3, Eric Beiden 9. FG 32 (2), FT 8-12, F 16.

Mulvane—Toby Hoving 2, Todd Butcher 5, Jarrod Oldridge 4, Brad Rayl 1, Todd Hedstrom 3, Andy Mackey 3, Gary Cleverdon 5, Bill Harrington 12, Curtis Norden 4. FG 13 (1), FT 10-18, F 14.

First Place

Arkansas City 49, Chaparral 47 (3 OT)

Third Place

Kingman 65, Maize 45

Fifth Place

Campus 93, Clearwater 68

SEMIFINAL ROUND

Mulvane	13	14	11	20	58
Clearwater	24	22	15	16	77

Mulvane—Todd Butcher 10, Jarrod Oldridge 5, Curtis Norden 15, Gary Cleverdon 16, Todd Hedstrom 4, Bill Harrington 5, Andy Mackey 3. FG 27 (1), FT 3-16, F 17.

Clearwater—Shawn Murphy 20, Aaron Tjaden 20, Jay Hancock 10, Chris Archer 4, Nick True 1, Chad Vulgamore 2, Doug Bird 2, Gary Abner 16, Steve Olsen 2. FG 31 (3), FT 13-17, F 19.

Campus 63, Pratt 48

Chaparral 55, Maize 51

Arkansas City 63, Kingman 51

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	15	23	7	2	47
Chaparral	22	10	22	23	77

Mulvane—Jarrod Oldridge 7, Bill Harrington 10, Gary Cleverdon 13, Curtis Norden 11, Todd Hedstrom 2, Andy Mackey 2, Todd Butcher 2. FG 21 (3), FT 2-6, F 11.

Chaparral—Matt Jacobs 16, Dan Shurley 16, Andy Bumer 2, Britt Whealy 4, Tom Conrady 3, Justin Hill 20, Bruce Latta 5, Tim Eaton 7, Marc McCann 4. FG 36 (2), FT 3-6, F 10.

Maize 86, Clearwater 66

Ark City 62, Campus 50

Kingman 82, Pratt 48

Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Augusta	4	1	9	3
Buhler	4	1	6	6
Valley Center	3	1	8	3
Maize	2	2	4	5
Goddard	2	2	3	9
Wellington	1	3	4	7
Mulvane	0	5	0	11

DIVISION II

Kingman	5	0	10	3
Andover	4	1	7	5
Chaparral	3	1	9	2
Andale	3	1	9	3
Circle	1	4	5	6
Clearwater	0	4	2	10
Rose Hill	0	5	0	12

Games Friday, Jan. 26

Wellington at Mulvane

Rose Hill at Clearwater

Valley Center at Buhler

Chaparral at Kingman

Andale at Circle

Andover at Augusta

Goddard at Maize

Games Tuesday, Jan. 30

Maize at Mulvane

Circle at Rose Hill

Andover at Andale

Augusta at Wellington

Valley Center at Goddard

Clearwater at Chaparral