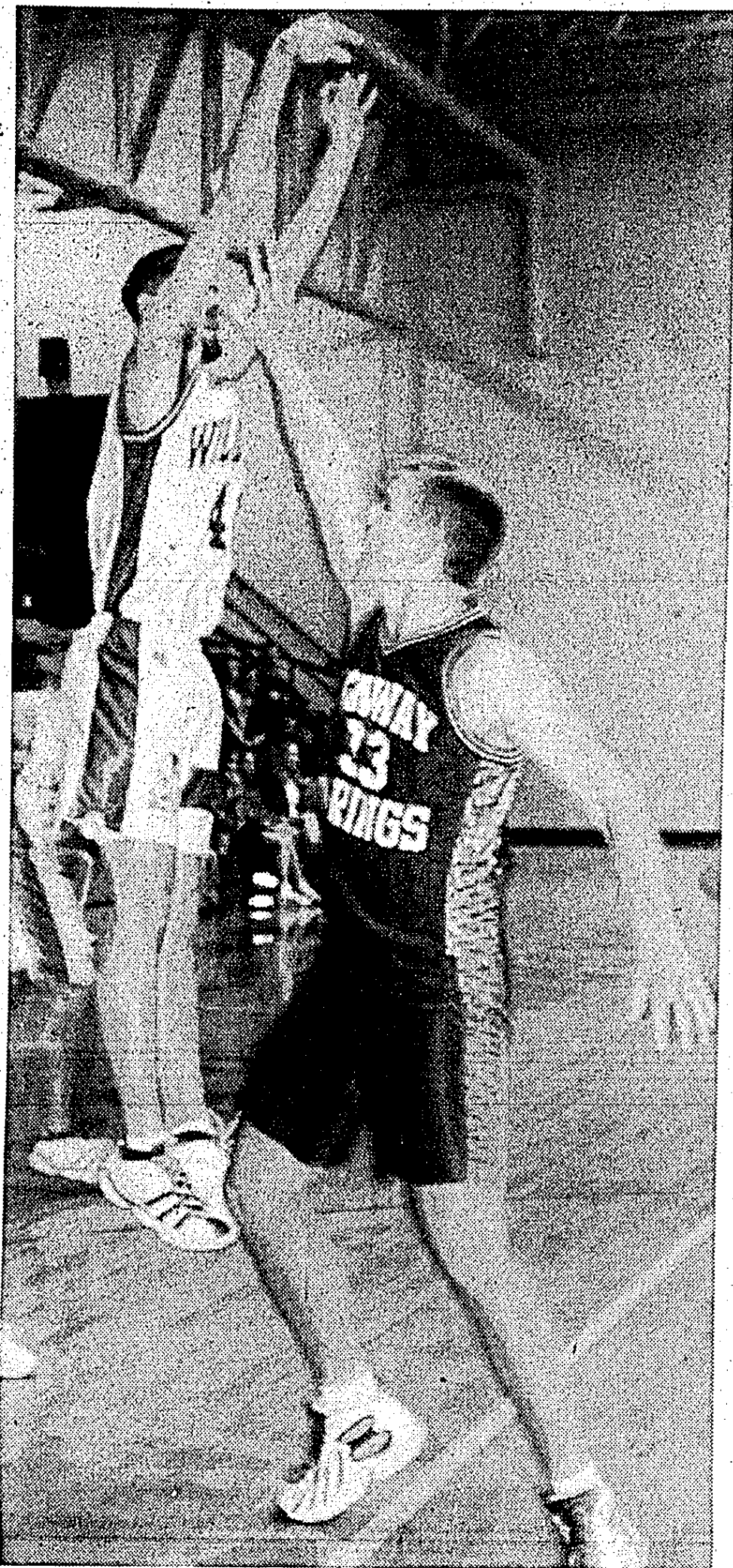


Cats Grab First Victory



Wildcat Ryan McKnight flies high on a shot against Conway

One game doesn't a season make, and Mulvane High School boys basketball coach Ryan Herrs isn't about to dwell on the Wildcats' first victory of the campaign.

The Cats, playing in the 30th annual Roadrunner Classic at Chaparral, posted their first victory of the year Saturday, Jan. 20, when they ripped the Andover junior varsity team in the tournament, 76-41. But Herrs was more interested in talking about two half-games the Cats played in two previous games in the tourney—both losses.

Mulvane played No. 2 seeded Campus in the first round Thursday, Jan. 18, and lost a 79-55 contest. In the semifinal round Friday, Jan. 19, the Wildcats were beaten, 58-39. But in both games, the Cats played well in the first half only to go to pieces in the second half.

That didn't happen in the game for 7th place. Mulvane rolled out to a 31-24 lead after a half, then streaked away from Andover with a 20-8 run in the 3rd quarter, then took the worry away by scoring 25 points in the last quarter.

"That was the 'feel bad' game of the year," emphasized Herrs. "They had all sophomores and one junior so it was tough to get up for a game like that, but we came out with to play. It was good that we won it, but there is no way we can 'win' even if we win. We didn't get the experience of playing a tough team. Still, it was important for us to get the win and get off the snide.

"But I don't want that game to be our standard, so I'm not going to dwell on that one win. This is not the level we want to be playing at. It was important for us to get up there with 70 points and it was good that everybody got to play and everybody scored some points."

Indeed it was. Scoring has been one of the problems for the Wildcats this year. Until Saturday night's game, Mulvane had been averaging only 40 points a game.

The Wildcats had five players hit double figures against Trojans with sophomore reserve Dusty Sorensen scoring 12 points in his first varsity action of the season. Jason Wilson, Jason Phillips and Ryan McKnight scored 11 points each and Chris Gerhardt finished with 10 points. Andy Hixson scored eight and Tyler Hennes had six.

Herrs was more interested in talking about how well the MHS boys played in the first half against both Campus and Conway.

"Overall in the tournament, we had two really good halves of basketball," said the first-year coach. "I was very proud of our first half effort against Campus and our first half against Conway Springs. We were in position to win both of those games, but we didn't respond in the second half of those games and that was disappointing. Another good thing about the tournament is that we were scoring some points and that's impor-

tant because we're having a hard time stopping anybody," said Herrs. "Our big guys are all shooting over 50% from the floor, but they're getting only four shots a game and that's ridiculous. They should be getting 15-18 shots a game. For instance, Ryan McKnight hit 6-for-6 against Conway. He didn't get enough shots."

Herrs said the difference against Cardinals was that "Conway had two guys who really believe they can win some games and we haven't found that person yet," said the Cat coach. "We're still looking for that senior leader who won't let us lose."

The Wildcats hung around through the first half with Conway Springs, trailing only by three points at intermission, 25-22. The Cardinals took charge in the 3rd quarter, out-scoring Mulvane, 19-9.

McKnight finished with 14 points in that game. Wilson scored 11 points and Brian Love had his best game of the tournament with eight points.

"We shot the ball well against Conway," said Herrs. "We got a dunk just before half and I thought that would really bring us out in the second half, but we were flat. That was pretty disappointing. The third quarter has been a bad quarter all year for us and that form held up. We just didn't respond to being right there in the thick of the game."

The opener against Campus was almost a carbon copy. The Wildcats fell behind, 21-10, after one period but out-scored the Colts, 22-21, in the second quarter. At intermission, Mulvane was smack in the middle of the game, trailing by only 10 points.

It was all Campus in the second half, though, and the Colts pulled away.

Wilson finished with 16 points and McKnight scored 14. Caleb Alexander and Jason Phillips both chalked up seven points off the bench.

"We were playing right along with Campus in the first quarter," said Herrs. "I think we were two points behind with about two minutes left and we had two straight turnovers and that was it," pointed out Herrs. "We can't overcome a couple of mistakes in a row."

The Wildcats jump back on the court Friday night, Jan. 26, when they entertain a tough Buhler squad.

30th Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic

SEVENTH PLACE

Mulvane 13 18 20 25—76
Andover JV 10 14 8 9—41

Mulvane—Jason Phillips 11, Chris Gerhardt 10, Ryan McKnight 11, Andy Hixson 8, Jason Wilson 11, Brian Love 2, Dusty Sorensen 12, Jonathan Reed 5, Tyler Hennes 6. FG 33 (2), FT 8-21, F 15.

Andover JV—Devin Schuster 8, Cole Hurley 6, Mike Archiopolli 20, Alex Lent 1, Mark Baker 6. FG 16 (1), FT 8-13, F 23.

FIRST PLACE

Pratt 41, Campus 39

THIRD PLACE

Arkansas City 56, Clearwater 51

FIFTH PLACE

Conway Springs 54, Chaparral 42

SEMIFINAL ROUND

Mulvane 9 13 9 8—39
Conway Springs 13 12 19 14—58

Mulvane—Ryan McKnight 14, Chris Gerhardt 2, Brian Love 8, Jonathan Reed 4, Jason Wilson 11. FG 18 (1), FT 2-4, F

Conway Springs—Brad Hennon 3, Thad Ronneau 2, Billy Linn 18, David McMillan 19, Paul Lange 7, Kyle Fitis 9. FG 20 (5), FT 9-16, F

Chaparral 78, Andover JV 27

Pratt 49, Clearwater 45

Campus 50, Arkansas City 45

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 10 22 12 11—55
Campus 21 21 19 18—79

Mulvane—Jason Wilson 16, Brian Love 2, Caleb Alexander 7, Luke Gunter 4, Andy Hixson 2, Ryan McKnight 14, Chris Gerhardt 3, Jason Phillips 7. FG 18 (1), FT 18-22, F 15.

Campus—Jeremy Brown 2, Nate McClure 2, Durk Reinhardt 8, Dustin Haywood 15, Kody Miller 20, Zack Harris 4, Britt Clubb 22, Dustin Musgrove 8. FG 33 (1), FT 12-16, F 18.

Arkansas City 63, Conway Springs 39

Clearwater 65, Chaparral 63

Pratt 89, Andover JV 41