

No 'Welcome Home' For Boys

It's been a 10 years, but Mulvane High School made it back to the championship game of the 23rd annual Roadrunner Invitational Saturday night, Jan. 22, at Chaparral High School.

It wasn't a welcome home like MHS Coach Dale Landes expected, though, as Arkansas City took advantage of poor shooting by the Wildcats to drill Mulvane, 61-37, in the championship showdown.

It gave Mulvane its first experience "playing at night" in the tournament since the 1987 season.

"It's been a long time since we even played at night over there," said Landes, who was pleased with Mulvane's run into the title showdown. The Wildcats nosed out Conway Springs, 43-41, opening night Wednesday, Jan. 19, then upset top seeded Pratt, 52-51, in a semifinal Friday night, Jan. 21. Teams which win their first game "play at night" the rest of the tournament.

Ark City's Bulldogs bombed Medicine Lodge, 66-48, in a semifinal to move into the first place game, the fourth time Ark City has been in the title game the last five years. For the Wildcats, it was their first time in the championship game at Chaparral since the 1984 season when Mulvane won it all and used the tournament as a springboard to the Class 4A state championship.

"That tournament experience for them helped, too," noted Landes. "We played well throughout the tournament. Nobody expected us to get that far. The kids are starting to realize that they have to play hard for 32 minutes. When they play with intensity for 32 minutes, we can be a pretty good ball club. But against Ark City, we just didn't shoot the ball at all. Ark City's

been around the championship game a lot. It was something new for us and we didn't respond very well."

The Bulldogs made Mulvane pay, too, as they sprinted to a 16-9 lead after the first quarter, then took a 17-point lead into the second half.

"We had good shots within the offense, we did work the ball, but our outside shooting wasn't very effective," said Landes. "Ark City played a 2-3 zone and we were able to get the open shots but they just didn't fall. The few times we did work it inside, we were fairly effective but their size inside and leaping ability kind of off-set both Dan (Smith) and Jason (DeWald)."

The inside duo for the Wildcats, both all-tournament selections, were held in check by the Bulldogs, scoring only four (DeWald) and five (Smith) points, their lowest combined total of the tournament. And with better size, the Bulldogs handled the rebound war.

"When you're getting only one shot each possession and that shot isn't falling, it's pretty tough to be successful, and that's what happened," said Landes.

Sophomore Mike Abasolo, who scored Mulvane's first nine points, led the Cats with a career-high 18 points. The only other player besides Smith and DeWald with more than a bucket was guard Jeremy Brown, who scored four points.

"It was a great tournament for us," said Landes. "The victory over Pratt was big for our program. It showed we can play against a high-calibre team and win. The kids did a wonderful job. It was a great team effort throughout the whole tournament. We hadn't been performing well coming off the Christmas break, so I was happy to see things turn around."

The MHS Cats played their best 32-minutes in the upset over Pratt.

The Greenbacks broke away early but couldn't lose the Cats in the second-quarter shuffle. By intermission, Mulvane was hanging tough. In the third quarter, the Cats out-scored Pratt, 16-8, to take a three-point lead into the last quarter (43-40).

Pratt finally tied things up at 48-48 with 3:19 to play before bouncing into a one-point lead, but Jeff Parker's rebound basket put Mulvane back ahead, 50-49. Smith gave Mulvane a three-point spread, hitting underneath to make it 52-49 with 2:16 to play and held on the rest of the way, the Greenbacks missing a shot of the iron with one second left.

DeWald finished with a big game—17 points. Smith had 12 points. Abasolo had nine, Parker finished with six and Chris Heersche had five points.

"Our perimeter people were hitting and that had to respect that," said Landes. "That opened up the middle for Dan and Jason and they took advantage of it."

Landes also singled out DeWald for a fine job defensively, holding Pratt's top gun to only one point.

Mulvane started the tournament in shaky fashion, holding on against Conway Springs. "Turnovers really hurt us against Conway Springs," pointed out Landes. "A lot of them were unforced, but we came out with a victory and that was a boost for our kids because they knew they hadn't played well." Mulvane sported a 10-point lead with three minutes remaining against the Cardinals but three late turnovers turned the game into a nail-biter.

DeWald again paced the Wildcat offensive with 12 points. Brown had a six-point game, Dexter Carpenter scored five points and Smith finished with four. Both Abasolo and Parker finished with three points.

Landes' Wildcats won't be back in action until Friday night, Jan. 28, when the team travels to Goddard for a Chisholm Trail League game.

Two Selected All-Tourney At Chaparral

Two Mulvane High School seniors were selected to the all-tournament team Saturday, Jan. 22, at the conclusion of the 23rd annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic.

Six-foot, five-inch Jason DeWald and 6-3 Dan Smith were named to the all-tourney team after guiding the Wildcats to their best finish in the tournament in a decade. DeWald scored a team-high 33 points and teamed with Smith on the boards to lift Mulvane to a second place finish in the tournament.

Joining the Mulvane duo on the all-tournament team were seniors Matt Brumley and Brian Hargrove and junior Jason Schwartz, who guided Arkansas City to its fourth tournament title in the last five seasons. The 6-6 Brumley, the only repeater on the team, was the leading scorer in the tournament with 52 points.

Others on the all-tourney star unit were junior Chad Tabor and senior Chad Waters of Campus, Corbin Hostetler, a junior from Chaparral, senior Tony May of Conway Springs, junior Josh Axline of Medicine Lodge and two seniors from Pratt, Bryce Bolen and Cameron Reimer.

Chaparral Roadrunner Boys Classic

CHAMPIONSHIP

Arkansas City 16 16 10 19—61
Mulvane 9 7 6 15—37

Arkansas City—Matt Brumley 28, Jason Schwartz 4, Virgil Watson 2, Ron Brown 11, Brian Hargrove 6, Blake McDonald 4, Darren Hutchinson 6. FG 20 (2), FT 15-19, F 17.

Mulvane—Jason DeWald 4, Dan Smith 5, Mike Abasolo 18, Chris Heersche 2, Jeremy Brown 4, Todd Nienke 2, Griff Comejo 2. FG 11 (2), FT 9-14, F 22.

THIRD PLACE

Medicine Lodge 81, Pratt 77

FIFTH PLACE

Campus 81, Conway Springs 44

SEVENTH PLACE

Chaparral 67, Clearwater 63

SEMIFINALS

Pratt 14 18 8 11—51
Mulvane 9 18 16 9—52

Pratt—Bryce Bolen 21, Cameron Reimer 13, Jeff McEntarfer 3, Craig Bowe 3, Toby Leavenduskey 8, Kris Knight 1, Nelson Anderson 2. FG 20 (4), FT 7-13, F 11.

Mulvane—Jason DeWald 17, Mike Abasolo 9, Chris Heersche 5, Dan Smith 12, Dexter Carpenter 1, Griff Comejo 2, Jeff Parker 6. FG 24 (2), FT 2-4, F 15.

Arkansas City 66, Medicine Lodge 48

Conway Springs 57, Clearwater 40

Campus 76, Chaparral 54

FIRST ROUND

Conway Springs 11 2 9 19—41
Mulvane 9 3 12 19—43

Conway Springs—Tony May 11, Tim May 4, Brian Wall 21, Tim Glenn 2, Kevin Fricas 1, Matthew O'Brian 2. FG 13 (0), FT 15-22, F 11.

Mulvane—Jason DeWald 12, Dan Smith 4, Dexter Carpenter 5, Chris Heersche 2, Mike Abasolo 3, Jeremy Brown 6, Shay Vangas 2, Tom Nienke 2, Jeff Parker 3. FG 15 (3), FT 4-12, F 13.

Pratt 44, Clearwater 33

Arkansas City 65, Campus 50

Medicine Lodge 82, Chaparral 69

Varsity Boys

Maize 23 24 13 17—77
Mulvane 6 24 13 13—56

Maize—Shawn Beggs 27, Ryan Welsh 17, Jack Welsh 4, Ryan Seals 17, Graham Money 1, Chris Hagman 2, Heath Elliott 5, John Hull 2. FG 31 (2), FT 13-23, F 20.

Mulvane—Jeff Parker 13, Shay Vangas 11, Dexter Carpenter 6, Dan Smith 8, Griff Comejo 4, Shawn Erbert 4, Jeremy Brown 2, Mike Abasolo 6. FG 22 (3), FT 9-14, F 24.

Junior Varsity Boys

Maize 13 11 2 21—47
Mulvane 11 13 9 17—50

Maize—Greg Younger 5, Tyler Brannan 2, Graham Money 6, Brian Schoenhofer 5, Phil Beggs 8, Nate Robertson 9, Greg Smith 8, Doug Burch 2, Jamie Holt 2. FG 19 (6), FT 3-12, F 24.

Mulvane—Todd Nienke 16, Tim Glaser 10, Sean Younger 3, Shawn Erbert 9, Brad Canfield 4, Tad Nicholson 6, T.J. Lervik 2. FG 18 (3), FT 11-24, F 15.

Sophomore Boys

Maize 10 16 12 16—54
Mulvane 11 11 15 16—53

Maize—Brad Poes 13, Greg Younger 7, Casey Barton 2, Brett Brandenberger 11, B.J. Hensler 13, Gary Kral 6, Jim Hull 2. FG 24 (3), FT 3-9, F 19.

Mulvane—Eric Erbert 14, Tad Nicholson 6, T.J. Lervik 17, Seth Jones 8, Jake Carmichael 2, Brad Canfield 2, Matt Hendren 4. FG 20 (3), FT 10-14, F 14.