

Wildcats Earn Tourney Plaudits

On the surface, 7th place in an eight-team tournament isn't anything to shout about but Mulvane High School boys basketball coach is doing plenty of shouting following the 17th annual Chaparral Roadrunner Boys Classic Saturday, Jan. 23.

The Wildcats ended the tournament by sideswiping Ulysses, 86-63, for 7th place. Mulvane opened the tournament seeded 8th and gave previously undefeated and No. 1 seeded Arkansas City all it wanted before a 73-64 meltdown Wednesday night, Jan. 20. In the semifinal match-up, the Wildcats took on old rival Pratt and tumbled, 66-63, Friday afternoon, Jan. 22.

Kingman of the Chisholm Trail League captured the championship by clipping Ark City, 67-60, and Chaparral downed Clearwater easily, 53-41, to take third place. Pratt burned Wellington, 77-67, for the consolation title.

"We played a good tournament," stressed the Cats' Mason. "Record-wise, it doesn't look like we did, but we played the No. 1 team in the state in 5A, then played Pratt with their great size and pushed both of them right down to the wire. I feel a lot better coming out of the tournament this year than I did last year at this time.

"Last year, that was our flat period. We didn't play well in any of the three games. I think we played some good basketball, though, this year. The two losses came against people who had better personnel and we pushed both down to the wire. Ark City has three kids who can shoot three-pointers and the 6-8 kid inside. Pratt has a 6-6 in the middle."

Lost in the shuffle is the Ulysses onslaught. The Wildcats came out smoking and it was little contest after racking up a 23-10 lead after one quarter. By intermission, Mulvane was looking good with a 42-24 advantage.

"I wasn't worried about a letdown against Ulysses," said Mason about playing for last place. "We've already been in that position once this year and we were wanting the win after two close ones. The kids, I believe, realize now that they can play with anybody. We pushed Ark City to the limit and Pratt to the limit. If we go out and do things to the best of our ability, we're going to be alright."

The Wildcats, now 5-8 heading into the heart of the CTL season, were just too tough for the slower Tigers from Ulysses. Ten of the 11-man squad scored with senior center Toby Butcher having a field day with 23 points. Senior Shay Cornejo dumped in 16 points and Larry Lambrecht and Neal Hamilton gave the Cats four in twin figures with 13 and 12, respectively. John Melick added nine points.

In the opener against the Bulldogs, Mulvane fell behind early, then came on. Ark City came out to take a 19-15 lead but by halftime, Mulvane had that tied up at 31s.

"We had about a two-minute stretch

17TH ANNUAL CHAPARRAL BOYS ROADRUNNER CLASSIC SEVENTH PLACE

Ulysses 10 14 15 24-63
 Mulvane 23 19 17 28-88
 Ulysses--Dan Grigg 6, Butch Phipps 7, Doug Cutting 10, Phil Frazier 8, Jason Thompson 6, Aaron Madison 3, Ryan Foss 2, Trey Cardwell 10, Brandon Gee 10. FG 20 (5), FT 8-18, F 23.
 Mulvane--Larry Lambrecht 13, Shay Cornejo 16, Toby Butcher 23, Neal Hamilton 12, Russell Norden 3, John Melick 9, Pat Lockwood 2, Jeremy Hoenscheldt 2, Jeff Sisco 2. FG 28 (2), FT 25-37, F 12.

FIRST PLACE

Kingman 67, Arkansas City 60

THIRD PLACE

Chaparral 53, Clearwater 41

FIFTH PLACE

Pratt 77, Wellington 67

SEMIFINALS

Pratt 20 18 17 11-66
 Mulvane 12 17 18 16-63
 Pratt--Perry Henry 4, Brennen Wood 22, Brian Mills 11, Matt Havlas 16, Brandon Forsburg 2, Chad Winingham 7, Wakon Fowler 4. FG 29 (1), FT 5-18, F 13.
 Mulvane--Shay Cornejo 29, John Melick 4, Toby Butcher 12, Larry Lambrecht 13, Neal Hamilton 2, Sean Gillespie 1, Russell Norden 2. FG 25 (1), FT 10-13, F 19.

Wellington 70, Ulysses 60
 Arkansas City 79, Clearwater 59
 Kingman 60, Chaparral 49

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 15 16 17 18-64
 Arkansas City 19 12 21 21-73
 Mulvane--Larry Lambrecht 11, Toby Butcher 20, Shay Cornejo 21, Neal Hamilton 9, Russell Norden 3. FG 19 (5), FT 11-16, F 15.
 Arkansas City--Garette Long 5, Kurt Legleiter 2, Kent Murphree 17, Shane Mullen 15, Kelly Schroeder 10, Lance Niles 4, Darin Stewart 20. FG 27 (4), FT 7-14, F 16.

Clearwater 59, Pratt 56
 Chaparral 58, Ulysses 39
 Kingman 44, Wellington 38

where we gave up some good baskets in the fourth quarter and that was the ball game," said Mason. "You can't let down for a second when you're in against good people and we did. We forced about five shots and they got the rebound and scored."

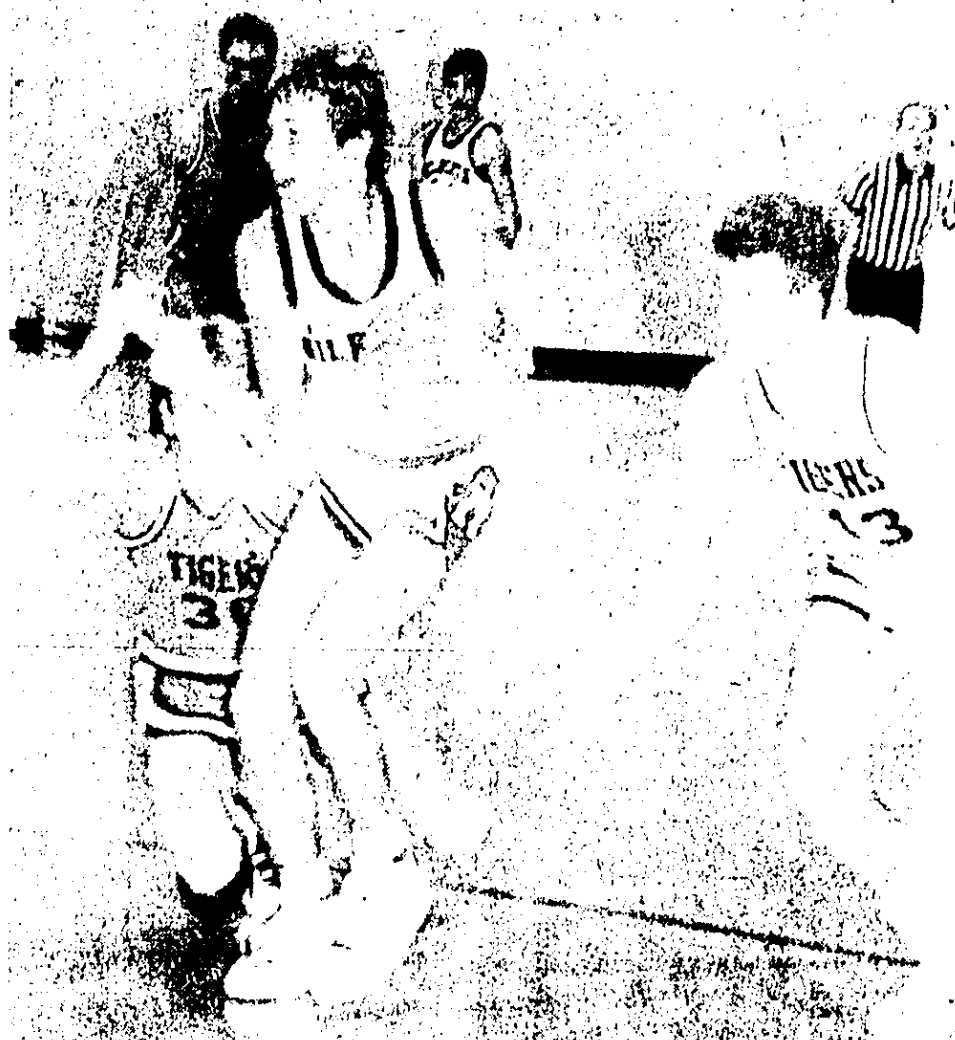
Cornejo's 21 points, 20 by Butcher, 11 by Lambrecht and nine by Hamilton carried the Wildcats against Ark City.

Mulvane rallied against Pratt in the second half to get back in the ball game after the Greenbacks had taken a 20-12 lead after one quarter. Cornejo again led the way with 29 points. Lambrecht scored 13 points and Butcher had 12.

The Cats forced a 62-61 lead in the final moments against Pratt but the Greenbacks went inside for two to recapture the lead. Pratt missed two free throws late but the Wildcats couldn't take advantage of the miscues and a three-point shot by Cornejo at the gun was off the mark.

"We came within about five minutes of being in the championship game," said Mason, whose club finished 4th a year ago on the way to a third place finish in the 4A state tournament. "We played extremely hard and extremely well. I think Cornejo, Butcher and Hamilton had outstanding tournaments. Like I said earlier, we are continuing to improve, and I feel a lot better after this year's tournament than I did after last year's."

The Wildcat boys will be idle Friday night but swing back into the thick of the CTL chase Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Valley Center before three consecutive home games.



Senior Larry Lambrecht (3) turns away from Ulysses pressure

MHS Senior Cornejo Named All-Tourney

Mulvane High School senior Shay Cornejo was the lone Wildcat to be named to the all-tournament team following the conclusion Saturday night, Jan. 23, of the 17th annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic.

Cornejo, the tournament's No. 2 scorer with a 22-point average, made the all-tourney team on the basis of a overall fine tournament, leading Mulvane to 7th place. The 6-foot, 2-inch senior scored 66 points for Mulvane. Mulvane's second "top gun," Toby Butcher had 55 points and was not selected.

Joining Cornejo on the elite unit were Mike Minton and Chris Howell who

guided Kingman to the tournament championship; guard Kent Murphree, Shane Mullen and 6-foot, 8-inch Darin Stewart of Arkansas City; Jade Beam of Chaparral; Matt McIntire of Wellington; Brennen Wood of Pratt; and Chris Hickman of Clearwater, who was the tournament's top scorer with 70 points.

The 6-8 Hickman, Beam, Wood and Minton were named to the team for the second straight year and Howell was all-tourney for the second time, too, having been named to the unit in 1986 as a sophomore.

Minton, Stewart and McIntire are the only juniors on the first team, the rest being seniors.

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

Kingman	5	0	10	1
Maize	4	2	10	3
Chaparral	2	2	8	3
Circle	2	3	7	5
Andale	2	3	4	8
Clearwater	1	3	5	5
Rose Hill	1	4	3	9

Games Friday, Jan. 29

Clearwater at Rose Hill
 Chaparral at Kingman
 Wellington at Buhler
 Valley Center at Andover
 Andale at Circle
 Goddard at Augusta

Games Tuesday, Feb. 2

Mulvane at Valley Center
 Andale at Rose Hill
 Circle at Kingman
 Andover at Augusta
 Chaparral at Maize
 Buhler at Goddard