

Cats Lose Two Close Ones; Sack Hosts For Seventh

It has been 15 years since the Mulvane High School Wildcats have stamped their pawprints all over the first place trophy at the 28th annual Roadrunner Boys Classic at Chaparral High School.

It's going to be at least another year, too, following the conclusion of the eight-team tournament Saturday night, Jan. 23, with Conway Springs taking home the hardware. Close doesn't count. Never did. Never will.

Coach Todd Barker's Wildcats had poor starts in their first two games and that spelled doomsday for Cat tournament hopes. They lost both games before playing their best game in the seventh place contest, where they shelled the host Roadrunners, 66-45.

Mulvane started the tournament Wednesday night, Jan. 20, but they started about eight minutes late and Campus used its first quarter lead

to hold off the Wildcats, 55-46.

The loss dropped MHS into the loser's bracket and another poor start caused Mulvane to unsuccessfully play catch-up all night. The Indians topped the Cats, 55-50.

No. 1 seeded Conway Springs knocked off Campus, 55-50, to take the title Saturday night, repeating as tournament champs.

"We weren't that far off being in the title game," said Barker. "All we needed was a good start in both those first games. We were in both of those games despite getting out to a bad start. Against Campus, it was a tie game until the last 40 seconds. And against Medicine Lodge, we actually took the lead after the third quarter but couldn't hold them off."

Barker had hoped for some 1999 magic like the magic Mulvane had in 1984 when the Wildcats won the tourney for the first and last time.

Mulvane's best game was its last. The Cats hammered the Roadrunners early and often, blowing out to an 18-11 lead, then out-scoring Chappy, 20-6, in the second quarter to extend their lead to over 20.

"We just got things going and never looked back," said Barker. "We got everybody involved in the game and benefited from them turning the ball over a bunch of times. We also shot the ball well. We tried to push the ball because we felt like we had an edge in quickness and speed. Their big men have had a little trouble getting up and down the floor, so we tried to push it and get some transition baskets. We also worked our offense well and got the good shots off it."

And it didn't hurt to have your No. 1 scorer come to the table after trying to get out of a shooting slump the past few games. "That was critical, too," said Barker. "We need to have Jesse scoring and we didn't get that in the first two games. He was held to a combined 13 points in those two games but got 24 against Chaparral."

The Wildcats also benefited from good balance. Senior Garrett Hennes finished with nine points, senior Jake Wilkinson scored a career-high 12 points and both Randy Johnson and Brian McColpin, both

seniors, dumped in six points. Sophomore Ryan McKnight had five points.

In their first round game, the Cats came out struggling on offense. Campus launched itself with a 15-9 start before Mulvane gathered itself and actually out-scored the Colts in the next two quarters. Campus won the game in the 4th quarter by out-scoring Mulvane, 21-11.

"We called a time out to set up a play with about 40 seconds left," said Barker. "We came out and turned it over and then fouled them and put them on the line. They hit one of two free throws but we lost the rebound and they made a bucket. We had to turn the game into a free throw shooting contest and they made them."

Campus hit 11 of 14 free throws in the last quarter to hold onto the lead.

Hennes had his best varsity game in the scoring department, hitting 15 points. Brian McColpin, Wilkinson and Johnson tossed in nine points each.

"In that first quarter, Campus couldn't miss," said Barker. "They hit a good percentage and we didn't. We were still able to come back when we started playing better. We just needed some luck. In both of our losses, the other team hit its free throws when we fouled late in the game in an effort to come back."

Against Medicine Lodge, the Wildcats had an even worse start. They fell behind, 17-4, and trailed by as many as 20 points before hitting the comeback trail. "We played terrible in that first quarter," said the MHS coach. "We dug such a hole that we never could overcome it, although we did get back to within two points late in the game. They came out and pressed us early and we didn't respond. We ended up hitting 46% from the field. I don't know what we hit (per cent) in the last three quarters but it had to be extremely good because it was pretty bad in the first quarter."

Mulvane got back in the game by turning up the pressure on the Indians guards and getting some turnovers. "We had them off-balance that whole quarter but once again, we were just too far down to come all the way back. We had to foul them late and they hit 8 of 9 at the stripe."

Johnson scored 13 points to set the Cat offense in motion. McColpin and Marksberry had eight points each and Jake Wilkinson scored eight points.

The Wildcats will jump from the fire to the frying pan when they go to Andale for their next game Friday night, Jan. 29. It will be a big Chisholm Trail League Division II game.

28th Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic

SEVENTH PLACE

Mulvane	18	20	16	12	66
Chaparral	11	6	12	16	45
Mulvane	Jesse Marksberry 24	Randy Johnson 6	Garrett Hennes 9	Ryan McKnight 5	Jake Wilkinson 12
Brian McColpin 6	Nick Pope 2	Brian Dinkel 2	FG 25	00	FT 18
Chaparral	Jeremy Shue 15	Alan Patterson 9	Lyle Redgate 2	David Dieker 3	Greg Warner 7
Lance Ricketts 1	Ross Cleveland 2	FG 17	(1)	FT 10	27

FIRST PLACE

Conway Springs 55, Campus 50

THIRD PLACE

Pratt 69, Arkansas City 55

FIFTH PLACE

Medicine Lodge 65, Clearwater 40

SECOND ROUND

Mulvane	4	19	16	11	50
Medicine Lodge	17	12	7	19	55
Mulvane	Jake Wilkinson 8	Garrett Hennes 4	Jesse Marksberry 9	Randy Johnson 13	Brian McColpin 9
Brian Dinkel 3	Nick Pope 4	FG 19	(2)	FT 10	14
Medicine Lodge	John Stuckney 15	Justin Culver 6	Lyle Strong 8	Travis Nittler 5	Thomas Henderson 13
Lucas Bell 4	Shane Bedwell 2	Landon Brittan 2	FG 19	(2)	FT 15

Clearwater 63, Chaparral 51
Conway Springs 65, Pratt 49
Campus 47, Arkansas City 33

FIRST ROUND

Campus	15	10	9	21	55
Mulvane	9	16	10	11	46
Campus	Britt Clubb 12	Kody Miller 6	David Musgrove 22	Curtis Bowmaker 2	Kyle Holford 6
Brandon Minnick 4	Justin Franz 3	FG 18	(2)	FT 17	22
Mulvane	Garrett Hennes 15	Brian McColpin 9	Jake Wilkinson 9	Randy Johnson 9	Jesse Marksberry 4
FG 18	(0)	FT 10	17	F 17	

Arkansas City 64, Medicine Lodge 59
Pratt 78, Chaparral 58
Conway Springs 59, Clearwater 38