

Wildcat Boys Pick Crawford; Close To Showing Best

When it's close, it can be good like sitting next to Cindy Crawford, or it can be bad, like sitting next to a pile of snakes.

Mulvane High School boys basketball coach Todd Barker thinks his Wildcats are close—like sitting next to Cindy Crawford—following a 1-2 finish Saturday, Jan. 24, in the 27th annual running of the Chaparral Roadrunner Classic.

The Cats were close. The difference in finishing sixth, which is what Mulvane finished, and playing for first was a matter of a couple of plays, a couple of seconds.

"We were in position to win both of those games we lost but we didn't do the smart things that it takes to win," confessed Barker. "We're that close to being a pretty good basketball team. I think we can get where we need to get, though."

The Wildcats played for fifth place Saturday and Nickerson got hot from the free throw stripe in the fourth quarter to hold the Cats off in a 71-61 contest.

Mulvane opened the tournament Thursday evening, Jan. 22, playing Arkansas City, and the Bulldogs beat Mulvane in the final minute of play, coming from behind after a Mulvane turnover. Playing in the consolation bracket, the Wildcats came on strong in the second half to topple winless Campus, 78-66.

"We were satisfied with our play in all three games over there," said Barker. "Our only poor playing came in the first half of the Campus game. A year ago, we were getting drilled but now, we're in every ball game. We're moving up, and now it's just a matter of learning what we have to do to win. We just need to keep putting the pressure on and play smart. At this stage of the game, it becomes a mental situation and how you control that determines how you do."

Nickerson and Mulvane went back-and-forth for most of the game until the Panthers

27th Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Boys Classic

FIFTH PLACE

Mulvane 17 11 13 20-61
Nickerson 10 18 17 26-71
Mulvane—Chad Gerwick 7, Bryce Schumacher 14, Darrin Erbert 22, Rob Parker 12, Jesse Marksberry 6. FG 24 (3), FT 10-14, F 23.

Nickerson—Bon Rieke 4, Trey Jones 32, Kyle Green 11, Franklin Hartman 10, Adam Krul 8, Scott Kimmimau 6. FG 24 (4), FT 19-23, F 16.

FIRST PLACE

Conway Springs 69, Medicine Lodge 68

THIRD PLACE

Clearwater 55, Arkansas City 53

SEVENTH PLACE

Chaparral 87, Campus 62

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 19 17 19 23-78
Campus 20 21 10 15-66

Mulvane—Bryce Schumacher 15, Darrin Erbert 15, Chad Gerwick 6, Dan McElroy 9, Rob Parker 15, Jesse Marksberry 12, Keone Hargrove 2, Ryan Rogers 2, Clint Cox 2. FG 31 (4), FT 12-21, F 10.

Campus—Kody Miller 10, Britt Clubb 10, Pat Morgan 10, David Musgrove 10, Derik Musgrove 20, Kyle Holford 4, Curtis Bowmaker 2. FG 28 (4), FT 6-7, F 18.

Nickerson 74, Chaparral 46

Conway Springs 64, Arkansas City 50
Medicine Lodge 52, Clearwater 46

FIRST ROUND

Arkansas City 17 18 12 25-72
Mulvane 12 17 20 18-67

Arkansas City—Dusty Hetterbach 12, Matt Tate 2, Michael Morgan 25, Casey Webb 3, Ron Moncrief 6, James Bell 11, Stephen Hewitt 4, Charles Jennings 9. FG 20 (7), FT 11-14, F 17.

Mulvane—Darrin Erbert 35, Bryce Schumacher 9, Chad Gerwick 4, Dan McElroy 11, Clint Cox 2, Jesse Marksberry 6. FG 27 (3), FT 10-14, F 17.

Conway Springs 67, Campus 38
Medicine Lodge 65, Nickerson 56
Clearwater 76, Chaparral 68

Mulvane SPORTS

snuggled up with a four-point lead with three minutes and a half to play. "They tried to sit on it and were successful," said Barker. "We just kept fouling the wrong man. They were 16 of 22 from the line in the last quarter alone. So, they made the shots when they needed them."

Those tosses enabled the Panthers to stretch it out to 10. Hot guard Darrin Erbert fuelled the Cat scoring with 22 points. Bryce Schumacher finished with 14 points and 6-9 senior Rob Parker scored another 12 points. Chad Gerwick with seven and Jesse Marksberry with six rounded out the MHS scoreboard.

Less than 24-hours earlier, Mulvane fooled around for a half, then turned up the pressure and Campus folded.

"They were five points ahead at halftime (41-36) and I was pretty disgusted," remarked Barker. "Our heads just weren't in it. We gave up easy baskets and we got into foul trouble. Nobody was looking for anyone else. After we had a talk at halftime the kids came out and really lit it up. We finished shooting 56% from the floor for the entire game."

Barker was concerned about the Colts, despite them being without a victory. "I tried to make the kids understand that Campus is the kind of team that can give you trouble if you don't jump on them right away," said Barker. "We let them jump out and get some confidence. You give people like that confidence and they can be tough to handle."

It was all Mulvane in the second half, the Cats out-scoring Campus, 19-10, in the third quarter to finally grab the lead and pull away.

Four players were in double digits for Mulvane. Schumacher, Erbert and Parker had 15 each and the sophomore Marksberry countered with 12. Senior Dan McElroy had nine and Gerwick finished with six.

"What I liked most about that game in



Wildcat Clint Cox (42) looking to pass inside against Campus

addition to us coming back was 19 assists in the game," pointed out Barker. "Bryce had seven and Darrin six."

Barker expected to come away a winner against Ark City but it wasn't to be. "We really played pretty good against Ark City," said Barker. "We had only seven turnovers and we stayed with them on the boards even though they are a lot more athletic than we are."

Mulvane had a one-point lead and the

ball twice in the last 1:30 of the game but an unforced turnover on an in-bounds play turned the ball over to Ark City and the Bulldogs cashed in to take the lead. "It was just one of those things I hope we can learn from," said Barker.

Erbert kept the Cats close, scoring a career-high 35 points. McElroy finished in double figures with 11 points, Schumacher scored nine and Marksberry had six.

One Cat Tabbed For All-Tourney

Only one Mulvane High School cager was selected to the Chaparral Roadrunner Classic All-Tournament Team Saturday, Jan. 24, at the conclusion of the 27th annual Roadrunner Classic.

Senior guard Darrin Erbert was the lone Mulvane High representative on the all-tourney squad, but he wasn't the only Mulvane representative to make his presence known during the tourney.

Another Wildcat senior, Chad Gerwick, won the three-point shooting contest prior to the tournament, hitting 19 of 30 from beyond the arch. He beat out Medicine Lodge's super sophomore Scott Henderson for top honors.

Mulvane also had cheerleader Ann White selected to the All-Tournament Cheerleading Squad.

Ten other players, including four of the five starters from tournament champion Conway Springs, were honored by selection to the elite tournament team.

The others selected included 6-foot, 2-inch Michael Morgan of Arkansas City, 6-1 Kevin Kunz of Chaparral, 6-1 Landon Langston of Clearwater, Henderson and junior Tyler Strong of Medicine Lodge and Kyle Green and 6-4 Trey Jones of Nickerson as well as the quartet from Conway—6-1 James O'Brien, 6-7 Jeff McMillin, 6-4 Kyle Barkley and 6-7 Brandon Pauly.

Eight of the 11 players selected are seniors. The only non-seniors are the sophomores Henderson and Barkley and junior Strong. Erbert was the tournament's top scorer, hitting for 72 points.