

2 Buzzer Shots Dash

Cat Tournament Hopes

It could have been a disappointing series of events, the 15th annual Chaparral Roadrunner Basketball Classic, but it wasn't for Mulvane High School basketball coach Charlie Mason.

The Wildcats were 1-2 and finished sixth in the eight-team field Saturday, Jan. 25, barely losing to Kingman, 68-66, in the battle for 5th place. However, Mason chooses to upbeat the results instead of dwelling on the obvious. "We came out 1-2 (in the tournament) but it was a good tournament for us," said Mason. "We played awfully good basketball the entire tournament but came away with two losses.

The two-point loss to Kingman came four days after an 85-83 double overtime setback against Arkansas City Wednesday, Jan. 22, in the opening round of the tournament. The Wildcats, who slumped to 4-7 for the year, beat up on winless Chaparral, 71-61, in the semi-final game Friday.

"I think we just played our best basketball of the year in the last three or four games, that includes the Wellington game just before the tournament," said Mason. "The kids are starting to believe in themselves and starting to believe it's not over until it's over. We were down about 10 points against Ark City in the second half and behind six in the overtime, and it was about 10 points (behind) in the Kingman game in the fourth quarter and we came back each time."

The Cats shot the ball well in all three games, leading to a 41-38 lead by intermission against Kingman but went cold in the third quarter before slapping a full-court press on the Eagles that nearly won the game. The Cats actually grabbed a one-point lead and had apparently pressed Kingman into a five-second count to retain the ball in the fading seconds of the game but officials ruled Kingman called time out before the turnover. That led to a Mulvane foul, which was followed by one free throw to tie the game at 66-66 before the second throw bounced off, was rebounded by Kingman which led to the tie-breaking basket with seconds left.

It was reminiscent of the two-point, last second loss in the first round. Ark City took advantage of a Mulvane turnover when the Cats were trying to waste the final 50 seconds of the second overtime, hoping for the final shot. The Bulldogs shot once from the corner, took a rebound shot, which was slapped toward out-of-bounds by a Wildcat but a driving Ark City player flipped the ball high back over the backboard onto the court and into the hands of an Ark City player, who hit the five-footer with :01 left on the clock.

Only against the 0-11 host Roadrunners did the Cats appear to play below their potential.

Neither Mason nor the Mulvane crowd was too pleased with the officiating the entire tournament. The Cat bench received technical fouls in each losing game.



CHAPARRAL ROADRUNNER CLASSIC CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Kingman 18 20 17 13-68
Mulvane 18 23 8 17-66

Kingman--Mike Minton 10, Chris Howell 16, Bob Boyer 7, John Ernst 9, Ron Beal 26, FG 26, FT 16-26, F 8.

Mulvane--Kevin Kastl 2, Kyle Steadman 4, Todd Fox 28, Andrew Swayne 7, Morgan LeClair 19, Curtis Hicks 6, FG 31, FT 4-8, F 19.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Pratt 55, Arkansas City 49 (OT)

THIRD PLACE

Nickerson 63, Clearwater 48

SEVENTH PLACE

Wellington 70, Chaparral 45

CONSOLATION SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 16 16 16 23-71

Chaparral 14 18 8 21-61

Mulvane--Todd Fox 9, Kyle Steadman 4, Shay Cornejo 2, Curtis Hicks 7, Reese Brown 2, Morgan LeClair 19, Andrew Swayne 18, Lyle Graybeal 1, Kevin Kastl 6, FG 25, FT 21-35, F 12.

Chaparral--David Yandell 17, Dan Berthoff 1, Mark Darnell 2, Jade Beam 15, Don Baker 10, Lance Menhusen 8, Brad Jacobs 8, FG 26, FT 9-12, F 28.

Kingman 85, Wellington 55

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS

Arkansas City 69, Nickerson 65

Pratt 69, Clearwater 46

FIRST ROUND GAMES

Mulvane 16 14 23 18 (7) (5)-83

Arkansas City 16 25 14 16 (7) (7)-85

Mulvane--Reese Brown 2, Bryson Butts 2, Todd Fox 16, Curtis Hicks 22, Morgan LeClair 15, Kyle Steadman 2, Andrew Swayne 20, Shay Cornejo 4, FG 38, FT 7-13, F 16.

Arkansas City--Garette Long 4, Shane Mullen 4, Brian Shaw 28, Steve Fields 20, Tim Hollingsworth 13, Doug Owen 16, FG 38, FT 9-18, F 13.

Nickerson 74, Chaparral 48

Clearwater 68, Kingman 35

Pratt 58, Wellington 46

"We did everything we needed to do to win the game, but we didn't get it," noted Mason. "It was taken away from us (vs. Kingman). The official signaled a time out with four seconds gone on the count and the other one signaled five seconds. You aren't permitted to call time out with more than three seconds gone. Then Kyle (Steadman) got knocked to the floor and they got the free throw which led to the winning bucket."

Junior Todd Fox checked in with his best game of the season, scoring 28 points against Kingman. Frontline mate Morgan LeClair scored 19 points and Andrew Swayne had seven, his lowest of the tournament.

Balanced scoring is something the Wildcats had during the meet. "I thought both Morgan and Todd deserved all-tournament honors and Andrew had a good tournament the first two ball games," added Mason. "The kids played pretty steady ball. When one wasn't doing something someone else was. That's what it takes. And you have to understand it was a difficult week, too, but the kids responded. They did everything we asked of them. If we would have gotten a few calls of if a few calls hadn't been made that were called, it might have been a different story."

Against Chaparral, the Wildcats broke out of a 32-32 deadlock at halftime by out-scoring the Roadrunners, 16-8, in the third quarter and coasted on in.

The junior LeClair scored a game-high 19 points and Swayne had 18. Fox had nine points and Curtis Hicks had seven.

In the first round, the Wildcats scrapped back from a deficit in the third quarter to tie the game in the late stages and send the game into two overtimes before the Bulldogs prevailed on the strange bucket at the buzzer.

"We had our five best ballhandlers in the game when we had the ball with 50 seconds left in the second overtime, working for the last shot but we made an inexperience turnover," said Mason. "We came down and still played real good defense and it took a throw-back from out-of-bounds over the backboard for them to win it. You don't like to lose but sometimes you lose and you learn. Hopefully, someplace down the line, we'll get those two buzzer losses back if we continue to get some scoring out of all five people and keep working."

Four players were in double figures against Ark City. Guard Hicks scored 22 points and Swayne counted 20. Fox scored 16 points and LeClair had 15.

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	3	0	6	6
Valley Center	2	1	7	4
Augusta	1	2	6	6
Mulvane	1	2	4	7
Goddard	1	2	4	7
Wellington	1	2	4	6

DIVISION II

Clearwater	2	0	8	4
Andale	2	0	6	6
Kingman	1	0	5	7
Rose Hill	2	1	8	5
Andover	1	1	2	10
Malze	1	1	9	5
Circle	0	3	4	9
Chaparral	0	3	0	11