

# Hot Start Dooms Cat Boys On Road

Did someone say Buhler was down this year?

The Mulvane High School boys found out Buhler is still Buhler, especially at home, as the Crusaders shelled Mulvane with an early barrage, then coasted past the Wildcats, 64-35, in a Chisholm Trail League Division I game in Buhler.

The loss saw Mulvane slipping to 6-7 overall and 1-4 in the league, and Buhler improved to 4-8 and 2-4.

"Every time we go out on the floor, we have to prove something," said MHS Coach Ryan Herrs. "We have to be ready for the other team's challenges. I told the kids before the season that there wasn't one team that was going to give them a win, that they had to work hard to take every win. Buhler came out with a lot of confidence. They were on fire against us."

The Crusaders dumped in their first eight field attempts and were off and running as the Cats tried to regroup. "We just weren't guarding their shooters," emphasized Herrs. "They came out on fire. They hit the first nine shots against and you just don't recover from that. Our confidence was shaken and it was just too much for us to overcome."

The Crusaders hit a couple of layups first, then dropped through seven more in a row to take the early lead. Buhler outscored the Cats, 30-16, in the second and third quarters and never quite regained their confidence. "When they hit you early like that, you try to fall back and regain your confidence," said Herrs. "The staff had been billing this game as one we could win, but when they came out on fire, that was a real blow. It showed in the second quarter when we scored only four points. That's just getting your head down."

The Crusaders made things difficult for

#### Varsity Boys

Mulvane	10	4	12	9-35
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Buhler	19	15	15	15-64
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Mulvane—Troy Johnson 8, Tyler Hennes 9, John Beggs 4, Kale Regier 3, Dusty Sorensen 6, Zach Kimble 5. FG 16 (0), FT 2-5, F.

Buhler—Lind 6, Wray 9, Jesse Schulte 12, Graber 3, Corwin 7, Brett Cikaneck 6, Pauley 5, Stover 4, Preston 6, Cameron 6. FG 25 (3), FT 11-16, F.

#### Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	10	5	26	13-53
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Buhler	11	13	24	9-57
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Mulvane—Caleb Alexander 2, Greg Flores 18, Grant Snider 2, Nick Hansen 16, Gavin Snider 4, Keil Mangus 4, Chris Simon 1. FG 20 (11), FT 5-7, F 17.

Buhler—Brandon Graber 16, Brandon Cameron 10, Josh Friesen 3, Jake Strover 1, Jared Gullmore 10, Branan Walker 7, Jake Sainteky 8. FG 21 (4), FT 9-13, F 13.

senior Troy Johnson inside. "When that happens, we have to have John Beggs step up, we have to have Tyler Hennes step up and we have to have Dusty Sorensen set up," said the Cat coach. "We're a lot stronger than we were a year ago. Our mentality is stronger and how we view other teams, but when they came out hitting everything, it just took us out of our game. We didn't shoot and they did. That seemed to give them a lift."

Johnson scored eight points and Hennes finished with nine. Sorensen had six points and sophomore Zach Kimble hit for five.

Mulvane gave the Crusaders all it wanted in the junior varsity game Friday before Buhler held on for a 57-53 triumph.

Guards Greg Flores and Nick Hansen had the hit hands for the Cats. Flores gunned in 18 points and Hansen had 16 and were the ringleaders in the three-point shooting. The Wildcat hit 11 of them.

Mulvane's Tuesday night contest at Maize was postponed by bad weather. It will be Friday, Feb. 1, before the MHS boys get back on the court. They go to Valley Center before returning home Tuesday night, Feb. 5, against Augusta.