

Late Follies

Stop Wildcats

For three quarters plus, Mulvane High School Wildcats were a model of composure and patience. All that went down the drain in the last four minutes Friday night, Jan. 28, when the Cats were at Goddard.

The Lions rolled behind a 10-0 run in the final four minutes to post a 51-45 verdict over the Wildcats in a Chisholm Trail League game.

The loss left the Cats of Coach Dale Landes staggering in last place in the league with an 0-6 mark as they prepare for co-leader Buhler Friday night, Feb. 4, in the annual MHS homecoming game. Overall, Mulvane stands 5-9.

"We made some bad decisions offensively down the stretch," said Landes somberly. "We had a couple calls go against us, too. We couldn't overcome those two things. We were patient until the time when we took a couple bad shots in the last four minutes and we also made two critical turnovers."

Mulvane took the lead at the start of the last quarter on a couple baskets by Chris Heersche and a "two" by Dan Smith, who had a marvelous game. But the MHS offense then went cold after going from a one-point deficit into a 45-41 lead with four minutes left. Not only cold, but ice cold.

Two travelling calls and a forced pass inside that was picked off started the momentum back toward Goddard, and the Lions made the most of it.

"We tended to rush our shots down the stretch and that didn't help," commented Landes. "Obviously, we felt like we played good enough to win but we had too many things going against us. And the two turnovers seemed to get them going when we had the big lead."

Another factor that went against the Cats was foul troubles for Mulvane's No. 1 scorer this season, Jason DeWald. He picked up two fouls in the first four minutes and spent most of the game on the bench. He picked up No. 4 early in the fourth quarter after returning, and failed to score a point.

Frontline running mate Dan Smith nearly made up for the shortfall, however, as he held the hot hand, scoring 21 points.

"We also got some good help off the bench," stressed Landes. "We had several kids come in and play well, kids like Shay Vangas, Griff Cornejo and Chris Heersche. They did a fine job and Dan had one of his best scoring games."

It wasn't enough as the MHS shooting went cold at exactly the wrong time—the last four minutes. "If you have the confidence to shoot well early, you should have the confidence to shoot well late, too, but we didn't have anybody step up," said the Cat coach. "We wanted to get the ball to Griff because he had been shooting well earlier but the started over-playing him."

The bench helped keep the Wildcats in the game. After all, three starters failed to produce a point. Smith was the only player in double figures. Heersche finished with nine points, Comejo had eight and Vangas scored four.

It also didn't help to have Goddard start finding the range at the free throw stripe after going 6-12 through the first three quarters. The Lions hit 9-for-13 in the last quarter, including six of seven when the game was hanging in the balance.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	12	18	9	6-45
Goddard	13	13	12	13-51
Mulvane—Dan Smith 22, Chris Heersche 9, Shay Vangas 4, Griff Comejo 8, Jeremy Brown 2. FG 21 (0), FT 3-7, F 23.				

Goddard—Scott Schneider 11, Andy Stemmon* 4, Justin Meng 4, Ryan Helsel 19, Jeremy Durham 2, Ben Christensen 6, David Hughes 3, Troy Schneider 2. FG 18 (0), FT 15-25, F 14.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	7	14	15	12-48
Goddard	14	18	11	12-55
Mulvane—Todd Nienke 12, Tim Glaser 5, Shawn Erbert 3, James Baker 19, Dexter Carpenter 4, Eric Erbert 3, Rick Maxwell 2. FG 22 (2), FT 2-6, F 21.				

Goddard—Jared Edwards 9, Ryan Cummings 10, Brent Buchanan 4, Ben Christensen 4, Todd Mahler 13, Wes Turybury 2, 13. FG 19 (3), FT 14-21, F 12.

In the junior varsity contest, a slow start put Coach Scott Swaney's crew in a catch-up mode but they never caught up in a 55-48 loss.

Tom Nienke and James Baker had their best games of the season. Baker finished with a game-high 19 points and Nienke scored 12. Tim Glaser scored five points and Dexter Carpenter scored four for Mulvane.

Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Valley Center	5	1	9	4
Augusta	4	2	10	4
Maize	4	2	7	6
Buhler	3	3	7	6
Goddard	3	3	6	7
Wellington	2	4	6	8
Mulvane	0	6	5	9

DIVISION II

Rose Hill	6	0	9	5
Andover	5	1	9	5
Circle	4	2	9	5
Kingman	3	3	3	9
Chaparral	2	4	4	10
Andale	1	5	2	12
Clearwater	0	6	1	12

Games Friday, Feb. 4

Buhler at Mulvane, homecoming
Augusta at Valley Center
Rose Hill at Chaparral
Kingman at Andover
Clearwater at Circle
Wellington at Goddard

Games Saturday, Feb. 5

Wichita West at Maize

Games Tuesday, Feb. 8

Mulvane at Augusta
Andover at Rose Hill
Chaparral at Clearwater
Buhler at Goddard
Newton at Valley Center
Circle at Andale
Pratt at Kingman
Maize at Wellington