

Cat Boys Hold Off Fredonia

Every time the Mulvane High School boys take a deep breath, somebody starts thinking they can get back in the game.

The Wildcats, playing Fredonia for the first time, jumped ahead early, then took a deep breath and before long, it was a ball game. However, the Cats put Fredonia away in the last few minutes behind a barrage of successful free throws to win by a 70-61 count Tuesday night, Feb. 3, in a non-league encounter.

The victory hiked Mulvane's record to 7-7.

"We jumped all over them in the first quarter, then relaxed a little, which let them get back in the game," noted Todd Barker, the MHS boys coach. "We played great in the first quarter but just in spurts the rest of the way. I thought we were going to put them away early but we kind of took a breath."

The Cats slammed the door with deadly free throwing in the final quarter, hitting 10 of the 14 tosses attempted from the charity stripe after going 1-for 5 earlier in the game.

Three Wildcats were in double figures. Guard Darrin Erbert scored a game-high 29 points. Senior Bryce Schumacher continued his torrid shooting and finished with 17 and lanky Robbie Parker had 13.

The weatherman on TV has nothing on Todd Barker.

The MHS boys basketball coach is having a tough time predicting anything. Just when he predicts the Wildcats are moving in the right direction, a cold front sweeps down and puts the Cat shooters in a deep freeze.

That's what happened in the second half Friday night, Jan. 30, at Augusta in a non-league contest.

The Cats were sailing along with a three-point at halftime, but Augusta out-scored the Wildcats, 23-10, in the third quarter as Mulvane couldn't hit the broad side of a barn in the period. That propelled the Orioles to an 81-67 triumph.

"We went totally cold," said Barker. "We couldn't buy a bucket. That knocked us back a ways and we had to play catch-up the rest of the way. We got back within three at one time, but it took so much energy to get there that we couldn't finish things. We were a little short-handed because Jesse Marksberry, who has been fighting the flu, rolled an ankle in the third quarter and Dan McElroy couldn't play late in the game because of a hip pointer."

Consequently, Augusta pulled away despite Mulvane canning all 14 of its free throws in the final quarter.

"To look at the scorebook, you'd think Augusta was trying to catch up with all the free throws for us, but their inside game really hurt us. Their big kid kept shooting over the top and we didn't stop him."

Mulvane senior Bryce Schumacher kept the nets warmed up in the first half and that

kept the Cats ahead. He finished with 35 points including five three-pointers in the opening half.

"We did a great job in the first half," admitted Barker. "They came out in a zone and we moved the ball around well. Bryce just tore them up with his shooting. In the second half, they went to a man-to-man defense and tried to work on Bryce and Darrin (Erbert). They were picking them up a little tougher by keying on both these kids. And they got a little more aggressive on defense."

Erbert finished with 14 points and Marksberry had eight points. Senior Chad Gerwick scored six points.

Some of those "little things" continued to cause problems for Mulvane. It's a theme Barker has brought up often this season. "We're playing such good ball, but then we kind of shoot ourselves in the foot. One example is that we try to substitute a lot and we can't wait to have people go up and down the floor three or four times before they know what's going on. We have had some blown defensive assignments, which have led to some easy buckets for the other team. We need to have our kids become students of the game and know what's going on in the game even when they aren't in there."

The Wildcats held their own on the boards. Mulvane had 28 boards and so did Augusta. Erbert was the leader for the Cats with seven. Schumacher and Robbie Parker had six each.

The Wildcat junior varsity struggled early and never could catch up after the Orioles raced out to a 51-30 halftime lead. Augusta won the contest, 84-62.

Randy Johnson had a career game for Coach Scott Swaney's jayvees, scoring 27 points. Garrett Hennes continued his hot shooting with 14 points, followed by Josh Hanson with seven, Brian McColpin with six and Jake Wilkinson with four.

Varsity Boys

Fredonia	15	20	14	12-61
Mulvane	21	14	14	21-70

Fredonia—Floersch 6, Timmons 2, Anderson 25, Arnold 9, Cook 4, Atwell 4. FG 25 (6), FT 5-8, F 17.

Mulvane—Darrin Erbert 29, Chad Gerwick 3, Dan McElroy 4, Jesse Marksberry 4, Bryce Schumacher 17, Rob Parker 13. FG 29 (1), FT 11-16, F 10.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	13	23	10	21-67
Augusta	15	18	23	25-81

Mulvane—Chad Gerwick 6, Bryce Schumacher 35, Darrin Erbert 14, Ryan Rogers 4, Jesse Marksberry 4. FG 22 (6), FT 17-20, F 16.

Augusta—Matt Olston 12, David Stephenson 8, Reggie Smithson 21, Landon Riggs 10, Laayre 12, Chris Maier 6, Adam Shryock 10, Swendson 2. FG 31 (7), FT 12-15, F 19.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	15	15	22	10-62
Augusta	28	23	15	1-84

Mulvane—Jake Wilkinson 4, Randy Johnson 27, Brian McColpin 6, Josh Hanson 7, Garrett Hennes 14, Jared Rice 2, Nick Pope 2. FG 25 (7), FT 11-23, F 19.

Augusta—Swendson 4, Slade 2, Nickel 10, Roney 27, McClure 8, Ward 21, English 6, Wetzel 6. FG 31 (5), FT 17-22, F 21.