

Push, Pull; Cats In Chase

There's nothing like pushing your way into the thick of the league chase. That's exactly what the Mulvane High School boys cagers did Tuesday night, Feb. 6, at Rose Hill.

Mulvane, beaten earlier this year by the RH Rockets, returned the favor by frying the Rockets, 75-63. Coupled with the second straight loss by CTL-leading Circle, the win puts Mulvane in the race with four games left. The Cats are 5-3 and the leaders have two losses.

"We had a real good game," admitted Barker. "We played from the start to the finish really well, and we had a lot of kids coming off the bench and contributing. Going in, we were concerned about what their half-court trap did to us last time, but it never bothered us at all Tuesday night."

The Wildcats ran out to an 18-10 lead after one quarter and never trailed as Mike Abasolo gunned in a team-high 23 points and guard Jeremy Brown scored 14. Reserve Bryce Schumacher scored nine points, center Brad Canfield had eight and both James Baker and Darrin Erbert scored seven points.

"The key factors in the game were that we out-rebounded them, 32-23, and we also

forced 18 turnovers," said Barker. "In the earlier game, they dominated the boards. So, those were big statistical facts for us."

The 6-foot, 7-inch Canfield had eight boards and Baker and Abasolo had seven each. Brown finished the night with 10 assists, too.

Mulvane won the junior varsity game, too. The Cats edged Rose Hill, 77-76, as Greg Nunn and Luke Cox popped in 16 points apiece. Chad Gerwick finished with 11 points and Raymond Lazier added 10 points.

In a sophomore game, the Rockets came on strong in the last quarter to hand the Cat sophs a 61-51 loss, out-scoring Mulvane, 19-7, in the final quarter. Sean Holman had 15 points to pace the Wildcats. Ryan McCarty scored 10 points and both Dan McElroy and Keene Hargrove had eight-point games.

Coach Barker said "get smart" and the Wildcats did. Playing "smarter" in the second half enabled the Wildcat boys to come from behind for a 71-69 triumph over Kingman Friday night, Feb. 9, during the annual MHS Winter Homecoming game.

Kingman nearly rained on the Mulvane High parade, taking a seven-point lead at

halftime, but the Cats came back in the second half for the win. "At halftime, we talked about playing a little smarter than we did in the second quarter when they out-scored us, 24-16," stressed Barker. "We told the kids to get take it one basket at a time to get back into the game and sure enough, we did it. We just had a bunch of mental lapses in the second quarter that really hurt."

The Cats sprinted to an early lead against the Eagles, then lost their advantage in the final minutes of the second quarter. "We gave up some easy buckets and we made mental mistakes like shooting when we should have been holding it right at the end, just silly mistakes like that the whole quarter," said Barker.

Mulvane came out blazing behind a full-court press that kept the Eagles off-balance. "Our press was pretty effective early," said Barker. "We got a lot of turnovers. I thought our kids came out playing with a lot more emotion than they have played with in a while. I think the kids can still see that they have a shot at first place in the league and some of our younger kids stepped up."

In all, Mulvane forced 19 turnovers with its pressure defense.

The second quarter turned into an all-Kingman deal. "Every time we did a good job pressing them and got the ball to take a bounce, it bounced into their hands," said Barker. "It was just one of those deals. Overall, I thought we played pretty well."

Another point of the game that was crucial was free throwing and Mulvane hit 16 of 18 from the stripe, something a Mulvane team hasn't done for years.

"We finally were able to get to the line, and it was big," said Barker. "We finally got to shoot more than the other team and that helped a lot. It was big for us, especially in the last quarter when we went 8-for-9. That helped keep some distance between them and us."

Kingman got off a shot but Mulvane rebounded to win. Abasolo finished with a game-high 21 points. Guard Darrin Erbert, making his first start replacing an injured Neil Gosch, scored 15 points and senior James Baker had 16. Jeremy Brown was the fourth MHS player in double figures with 10.

In the junior varsity game, Mulvane ran all over Kingman, 76-59. Raymond Lazier pumped in 17 points and Sean Holman had 14 for the Mulvane JVs. Chad Gerwick finished with nine points and Greg Nunn scored eight.

Earlier in the week, the Cat jayvees rang up 71 points but Derby scored more in a 96-71 game in Mulvane. In that one, big Luke Cox scored a career-high 21 points, Nunn finished with 14 and Bryce Schumacher scored nine.

In a sophomore game against Derby, the visiting Panthers put together back-to-back 25-point quarters to start the game and never looked back in a 76-49 shelling. For the MHS sophs, Ryan McCarty dumped in 18 points, Rob Parker scored six and Ryan Lowe, Keene Hargrove and Chad Gerwick had four apiece. Mulvane's soph record slipped to 1-1 for the year.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	18	22	19	16-75
Rose Hill	10	21	15	17-63

Mulvane--Jeremy Brown 14, Mike Abasolo 23, Darrin Erbert 7, Bryce Schumacher 9, Matt Hendren 6, James Baker 7, Luke Cox 1, Brad Canfield 8, FG 26 (6), FT 17-32, F 24.

Rose Hill--Brett Mohr 10, Johnny Simmons 26, Greg Richards 1, Kyle Holland 12, Bryan Mohr 1, Dustin Thomas 3, Rhett Hanson 10, FG 20 (4), FT 19-26, F 23.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	19	13	25	20-77
Rose Hill	17	20	22	17-76

Mulvane--Chad Gerwick 11, Dan McElroy 6, Raymond Lazier 10, Doug Grow 2, Sean Holman 7, Darrin Erbert 5, Ryan Rogers 2, Bryce Schumacher 2, Greg Nunn 16, Luke Cox 16, FG 30 (4), FT 13-17, F 22.

Rose Hill--Jon Smith 4, Josh Roy 16, Chad Thomson 7, Greg Richards 6, Nick Krueger 2, Andy King 9, Jason Rose 15, Rhett Hanson 9, Zeb Jolly 6, FG 31 (2), FT 10-19, F 18.

Sophomore Boys

Mulvane	9	19	16	7-51
Rose Hill	6	20	16	19-61

Mulvane--Ryan McCarty 10, Dan McElroy 8, Sean Holman 15, Clint Cox 3, Ryan Rogers 1, Rob Parker 4, B.J. Feast 2, Keene Hargrove 8, FG 23 (3), FT 2-10, F 21.

Rose Hill--Ryan McKenna 3, Brandon Pope 6, Phil Ring 9, Jeff Kennitz 12, Kent Simpson 6, Chris Hall 2, Billy Christensen 10, Brian Moss 13, FG 25 (0), FT 11-24, F 14.

Varsity Boys

Kingman	15	24	16	14-69
Mulvane	16	16	21	19-71

Kingman--Jon Sterling 6, Kevin Criman 19, Kevin Fischer 16, Nick Armour 9, Niel McCune 4, Jarrod McClaffin 4, Andy Smith 3, FG 24 (4), FT 9-13, F 17.

Mulvane--James Baker 16, Brad Canfield 5, Mike Abasolo 21, Darrin Erbert 15, Jeremy Brown 10, Matt Hendren 2, Greg Nunn 2, FG 23 (3), FT 16-18, F 16.

Junior Varsity Boys

Kingman	9	14	20	16-59
Mulvane	16	10	21	19-76

Kingman--Joey Knapic 11, Adam Hook 17, Scott Woodward 14, Nick Armour 4, Shaun McEuen 2, Deroc Lacio 9, Jon Messenger 2, FG 26 (0), FT 7-17, F 12.

Mulvane--Raymond Lazier 17, Sean Holman 14, Luke Cox 7, Gregg Nunn 8, Darrin Erbert 5, Ryan McCarty 2, Chad Gerwick 9, Dan McElroy 6, Ryan Rogers 2, Bryce Schumacher 2, Rob Parker 4, Keene Hargrove 2, FG 32 (7), FT 5-10, F 20.

Derby	19	28	28	21-96
Mulvane	23	14	15	20-71

Derby--Treb Pascual 3, C.J. Wilford 6, Tony Avery 14, Michael Canady 6, Ahmed Allom 4, Corey Stewart 12, Cory Sneider 17, Ryan Filgner 6, Cody Courter 16, Ben Moore 10, FG 43 (4), FT 6-9, F 15.

Mulvane--Greg Nunn 14, Bryce Schumacher 9, Darrin Erbert 7, Ryan McCarty 6, Chad Gerwick 4, Raymond Lazier 4, Sean Holman 4, Keene Hargrove 2, Luke Cox 21, FG 31 (5), FT 2-5, 14.

Sophomore Boys

Derby	25	25	11	15-76
Mulvane	9	11	11	18-49

Derby--Showalter 5, Treb Pascual 6, Dodson 5, Avenell 2, Stansbury 6, Tilgner 12, Sayed 4, Cott 2, Grady 4, Hanson 30, FG 35 (3), FT 3-6, F 23.

Mulvane--Ryan McCarty 18, Chad Gerwick 4, Dan McElroy 3, Doug Grow 3, Sean Holman 3, Ryan Lowe 4, Clint Cox 2, Ryan Rogers 2, Rob Parker 6, Keene Hargrove 4, FG 16 (5), FT 12-22, F 7.