

Another Near Miss For Boys

Another slow start. Another great comeback. Another tough loss.

That's the scene Mulvane High School boys basketball coach John Darrow is watching these days.

Despite playing better ball, the Wildcats' skid continued Tuesday night, Feb. 8, at Clearwater, where the Indians slapped the Cats around, then held on at the end for a 61-52 Chisholm Trail League victory at Clearwater.

"We got down again and couldn't come all the way back," said Darrow, whose Wildcats stand 1-14 for the year. "We were down 10 by halftime, cut it to six, then cut it to two in the last three minutes but they hit three big three pointers and that was the difference. We matched one of them but not the other two."

Sophomore Troy Johnson wore out the Indians offensively, scoring a career-high 34 points—all from inside the paint. But that wasn't near enough down the stretch.

"We played terribly on defense," said Darrow. "You have to stop them every once in a while on the defensive end. We didn't. You just don't show up and play defense. Defense is a state of mind. It's an 'I want to' attitude."

Darrow also was disappointed in the team's rebounding, too. It had been one of the high points of the season. "In the first quarter, (when Clearwater was rolling out to a - lead), our rebounding was horrible. You can't show up and expect to do it. You have to go out and actually do it."

Offensively, Marksberry's eight points, five by Jason Wilson and four by Gerhardt supported the explosion by Johnson.

"Late in the game, we came back because we were executing and getting the ball inside," said Darrow. "We were getting lay-ups. Troy had 34 points and he didn't take one shot outside two feet. You talk about getting the ball to the guy whose hot, the team did a great job doing that. That's the team ball we need."

Valley Center is next on the schedule. The Cats will entertain Valley Friday night, Feb. 11.

The Wildcat boys had a party Friday night, Feb. 4, and Chaparral's Roadrunners crashed it. It was MHS Winter Homecoming Friday night but only the Roadrunners were celebrating after nipping Mulvane, 55-54, in a cliff-hanger in the Chisholm Trail League.

Earlier this season, Chappy had whipped the Cats by 18. This time, it took sinking two free throws with 12 seconds left to subdue Mulvane's improving boys.

"Those close ones are the rough ones," admitted Coach Darrow. "We were there and gave ourselves a chance to win it and that's all you can ask. These kids kept coming and left it all on the floor. As a coach, you can't ask for much more from your players than that."

The Wildcats trailed much of the game. Chappy broke away in the second quarter to

take a 32-22 lead at intermission but Darrow's warriors came back in the final quarter to make a game of it. "We took a 54-53 lead with about 26 seconds left when Jesse Marksberry hit a shot," said Darrow. "They came down and got inside the lane and picked up a foul. The kid hit both of them with about 12 seconds left. After a time out, we came down with a set play and tried to get Marksberry a shot from about the same area where he hit the one earlier but he missed. Jared Rice hustled to the boards and got the rebound and missed under the basket. We had two opportunities to win it and just couldn't cash in. That's why it was disappointing to lose it."

Mulvane trailed by as many as 12 points in the 3rd quarter but started putting it together down the stretch. "They came out in the second half and put a box-and-one on Marksberry and really did a nice job taking him out of the game, but our other kids stepped up late in the game," said Darrow.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	11	14	11	16-52
Clearwater	22	12	8	19-61

Mulvane—Troy Johnson 32, Chris Gerhardt 4, Jesse Marksberry 8, Jared Rice 3, Jason Wilson 5 FG 19 (1), FT 13-19, F 25

Clearwater—Jimmy Charles 14, Collin Peck 14, Chad Avila 10, Eric Estep 2, Kyle Avila 12, Andy Hastings 7, Luke Doil 2 FG 17 (6), FT 21-24, F 20

Chaparral	20	12	13	10-55
Mulvane	17	5	14	18-54

Chaparral—David Dieker 2, Ryan McCashin 9, Scott Easter 4, Dustin Warner 10, Patterson 15, Kendall Wedman 6, Adam Podschun 9 FG 21 (4), FT 9-22, F 15

Mulvane—Troy Johnson 17, Jesse Marksberry 10, Jared Rice 14, Jason Wilson 4, Chris Brannon 4, Chris Gerhardt 4 FG 25 (0), FT 4-13, F 25

Mulvane	11	8	12	19-50
Andale	19	13	18	15-65

Mulvane—Jared Rice 4, Troy Johnson 11, Chris Gerhardt 4, Jesse Marksberry 17, Chris Brannon 5, Jason Wilson 9 FG 20 (2), FT 8-14, F 17

Andale—Robby Spexarth 10, Nate Steven 8, Cody Gorges 5, Nick Eck 14, Francis Bualmann 6, Scott Patry 2, Josh Seiler 2, Jeremy Leis 6, Kurt Eck 4, Dylan Schmidt 5, Pete Lagaly 3 FG 25 (5), FT 10-15, F 16

Junior Varsity Boys

Chaparral	14	7	18	8-47
Mulvane	2	9	14	10-35

Chaparral—Alan Masner 12, Justin Robinson 12, Russell Geisen 6, Regan Hostetler 7, Joel Troyer 4, Jesse Budd 2, Craig Hadsall 2, Chris Cox 2 FG 22 (1), FT 2-5, F 25

Mulvane—Kyle McGuire 10, Shawn Rogers 2, Jonathan Reed 11, Shawn Webster 7, Dustin Rogers 4, Ryan Hobbs 1 FG 11 (0), FT 13-25, F 15

Mulvane	4	11	6	15-36
Andale	20	14	16	15-65

Mulvane—Philipp Major 2, Jeremy Adams 11, Jonathan Reed 10, Jon Rogers 3, Gregory Lange 2, Shawn Rogers 4, Chris Gerhardt 2, Kyle McGuire 2 FG 17 (1), FT 1-5, F 13

Andale—Kurt Eck 4, Chris Purkey 10, Scott Patry 11, Matt McFadden 12, Cody Ungles 2, Kurt Seiler 11, Steven Baker 8, Josh McGonigle 7 FG 29 (0), FT 7-14, F 7

Mulvane	12	0	3	13-28
Kingman	21	12	11	16-60

Mulvane—Jonathan Reed 4, Jon Rogers 4, Philipp Major 3, Jeremy Adams 7, Kyle McGuire 1, Caleb Alexander 2, Shawn Rogers 2, Chris Gerhardt 4, Ryan McKnight 1 FG 10 (1), FT 7-16, F 15

Kingman—Pat Miller 8, Jaral Mathis 10, Wil Hartley 12, Travis DeWeese 9, Scott Geesling 1, Pat Schwartz 2, Nick Cornelius 6, Dustin San Romani 10, Cactus Dodge 4 FG 23 (0), FT 14-20, F 20

Rebounding has turned into one of the Cats' best traits this season. Mulvane finished with 40 caroms to only 24 for Chappy. The Wildcats had 17 offensive rebounds to only eight for the visitors. Rice finished with 10 boards, Chris Gerhardt off the bench pulled down eight and Chris Brannon, Troy Johnson and Marksberry had five apiece.

With Johnson leading the way, Mulvane got off to a fast start to keep pace with the Roadrunners, who bolted to a 20-17 lead. Johnson hit for 11 first-quarter points and finished with a game-high 17. Rice notched his first "double-double" when he scored 14 points (to go with his 10 rebounds) and Marksberry had 10 points.

One night earlier, Mulvane's boys went to Andale for a snow make-up game and the Indians roughed the Cats up, 65-50.

The Indians showed the Cats why they are at the top in the CTL as they scatted out to a 19-11 lead and by intermission were

ahead by 13, 32-19. The game was originally scheduled for Friday, Jan. 28, but was postponed because of a snow storm.

Marksberry came alive with 17 points in this one. Johnson finished with 11 points, guard Jason Wilson scored nine and Brannon hit five points.

The Mulvane junior varsity had its hands full the last three games, bowing to Chappy Friday night, 47-35; losing a 65-36 game at Andale; and taking it on the chin by a 60-28 count at Kingman Feb. 1.

Jonathan Reed with 11 points and Kyle McGuire with 10 were the lone JV Cats in twin figures against the Roadrunners. Shane Webster finished with seven. Jeremy Adams topped the MHS jayvees against Andale, scoring 11 points. Reed also had a hot hand, scoring 10 points, and Shawn Rogers had four. Adams also led the jayvee team against Kingman, scoring seven points. Reed, Jon Rogers and Gerhardt finished with four points each.