

# Cats Crowd Into CTL Top Echelon

The Mulvane High School boys put it all together once again and the Clearwater paid the price.

The Wildcats squared their overall record at 9-9 and improved their Chisholm Trail League mark to 6-4 by trimming Clearwater, 77-70, at home Tuesday night, Feb. 13.

It's crowded at the top in the CTL. Division II leading Andale has two league losses, Circle and Clearwater have three and Mulvane and Rose Hill have four defeats in the league as the teams head into their final week of regular season action.

Clearwater had beaten the Cats by two points in overtime earlier this season at Clearwater, but the Wildcats defended "Our House" behind a flurry of points, jumping ahead, 24-18, in the first quarter, then pulling away in the final moments after the Indians had made it a two-point game going into the last quarter.

Coach Todd Barker's Cats had one of their most-balanced offensive performances with

five players in double figures. Seniors Jeremy Brown, James Baker and Mike Abasolo had 16, 14 and 13 points, respectively. Sophomore Darrin Erbert dished out 13 points and big center Brad Canfield scored 11 points. Neil Gosch scored four points.

The Wildcats, who have lost a few games at the line earlier this year, won it there Tuesday night. The Cats made 23 of 34 free throws and that was the difference. The Indians hit only 15 of 22.

The sophomore game scheduled Tuesday was cancelled after Clearwater notified Mulvane officials that it didn't have enough players.

Okay. The sky must have fallen. The sun rose in the west. Or they found out that Earth was flat.

There had to be some explanation Friday night, Feb. 9, at Andale. The Wildcat boys got a tiger by the tail at Andale that night as the Indians romped to a 72-39 victory over Mulvane in a game that was crucial for both teams. The winner still has at least a shot at the Chisholm Trail League title. The loser starts planning sub-state strategy.

What was so astonishing, however, was that Mulvane pounded the Indians by 15 earlier this season, so losing by 33 represented nearly a 50-point swing.

Coach Barker summed it up in a word. "Shooting." Does the percentage 22% make you think of anything?

"It was our worst game of the season," testified Barker. "We shot 22% from the field and it couldn't have come at a worse time. A win would have kept us in the thick of the CTL race, but that's gone now."

Instead, the Cats slipped under the .500 mark at 8-9 for the year.

"It was just one of those days," said Barker. "We had so many shots that went in and out. The kids started rushing their shots in the second half and that just made the game go from worse to 'worse.'"

Mulvane trailed only five points at half-time. The Indians were on top, 27-22, and Barker was thinking it was rally time. "We were only down by five at half and we had shot very poor in the first half," said Barker. "All I could think of is that we're in the game shooting that poorly, we're in great shape because we aren't going to shoot that poorly the whole game."

And he was right. The Wildcats shot worse in the second half, finishing up with only 17 points in the entire half. "I guess they came to play and we didn't," noted the MHS coach. "Andale has come around, though, since Christmas time and they are playing good basketball. They were picked to win the league and I guess they're playing to that level now."

Barker also pointed to another area of the game, rebounding. "They really beat us up on the boards, pretty badly, too," he said. "We tried a number of different combinations but nothing worked at all. It's a frustrating feeling watching shots go in and pop back out. It was a nightmare for everybody."

The only player in double figures as Mulvane was held to its season low was guard Jeremy Brown, who scored 11 points. Leading scorer Mike Abasolo scored six points and Darrin Erbert and Bryce Schumacher, a pair of sophomores, scored five points apiece.

In the sophomore game, Andale prevailed by a 71-64 count. Ryan McCarty's 16 points led the MHS soph offense. Keene Hargrove had his best game, scoring 10 points. Sean Holman, Ryan Rogers and Dan McElroy scored eight points apiece.

The Cats will be having their final week of action starting Friday, Feb. 16, with a home game against Chaparral before ending the regular season Thursday, Feb. 22, at Circle.

Sub-State play will begin the week of Feb. 26th. The Wildcats will be in the Rose Hill Class 4A Sub-State. Watch for sub-state pairings in next week's paper.

#### Varsity Boys

Mulvane	13	9	8	9-39
Andale	12	15	19	26-72

Mulvane—Jeremy Brown 11, Darrin Erbert 5, Bryce Schumacher 5, Michael Abasolo 6, James Baker 4, Brad Canfield 3, Neil Gosch 3, Luke Cox 2. FG 13 (2), FT 11-17, F 21.

Andale—Mike Gruenbacher 15, Steve Stanhope 10, Bart Winter 15, Jarod Eck 13, Gabe McKee 2, Kyle Ternes 5, Keith Weber 2, David McNeu 4, Erik Hatten 4, J.J. Weirich 2. FG 26 (1), FT 19-25, F

#### Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	
Andale	
Mulvane—	

#### Sophomore Boys

Mulvane	14	14	12	23-64
Andale	16	24	13	18-71

Mulvane—Keene Hargrove 10, Ryan McCarty 16, Chad Gerwick 2, Dan McElroy 8, Doug Grow 1, Sean Holman 8, Ryan Lowe 2, Jeremie Boor 2, Clint Cox 4, Ryan Rogers 8, Rob Parker 2. FG 26 (4), FT 7-9, F 27.

Andale—Troy Siron 2, Joe Patry 8, Kent Brand 21, Zack Steven 15, Brandon Blocker 9, Danny Simon 9, Matt Mohr 2, Brad Seiler 2, Jarod Marcotte 5. FG 26 (1), FT 18-34, F 17.

#### Varsity Boys

Clearwater	18	19	22	11-70
Mulvane	24	18	19	16-77

Clearwater—David Allenbach 14, Jeremy Whitney 9, Kevin Tjaden 9, Josh Clevenger 20, Collin Stieben 4, Wade Buller 3, Chris Smith 5, Tim Scheer 2, Keith Tjaden 4. FG 26 (1), FT 15-22, F 24.

Mulvane—Darrin Erbert 13, James Baker 14, Mike Abasolo 13, Jeremy Brown 16, Brad Canfield 11, Neil Gosch 4, Bryce Schumacher 3, Matt Hendren 3. FG 21 (4), FT 23-34, F 21.

#### Sophomore Boys

Game cancelled by Clearwater due to not having enough players