

T-Birds Take Cats To School

It took Circle just about three minutes to set the tone of the Chisholm Trail League game Tuesday night against Mulvane. It was "thunderous."

At home, the Thunderbirds showed the Wildcats the door in the opening moments as they burst out to a 10-0 lead on the way to a 64-32 victory.

The loss left Mulvane at 1-15 for the year as Coach John Darrow's club heads down the stretch in the regular season with three games left. Circle boosted its record to 10-7.

"They dominated us from the beginning of the game," said Darrow. "It was 10-0 before we even turned around. They got some threes early and put us away. It was over before it started."

By the end of the first period, the T-Birds were well out front, 20-4, and Mulvane didn't put up much of a fight after that. "The mental mistakes are really killing us," admitted Darrow. "We had 17 turnovers in the first half alone and that's 17 possessions we didn't get a shot off. We did a much better job in the second half, but the unforced errors are a major reason they handled us. We're talking about large violations and travelling. Those are just mental mistakes and we're still making them."

The first-year MHS coach felt his Cats played better after intermission but by that time Circle was just maintaining a 24-point.

"Compared to the first half, we executed a lot better in the second half and generally played better but you can't go into a game and play a half of a ball game," said Darrow. "We were really never in the ball game."

About the only area Darrow could brag on was the Mulvane rebounding, which returned to form after an off-night against Valley Center last week. The Cats, with sophomore Troy Johnson snapping up 11 boards, had 36 rebounds to only 23 for the T-Birds. "we're doing a good job there but we have to do a better job executing and putting the orange thing through the hoop," said Darrow.

Chris Gerhardt was top scorer for the Wildcats Tuesday night. He had 11 points. Jesse Marksberry had six points. Troy Johnson scored five and Ryan McKnight and Jason Wilson had four apiece.

The MHS boys found out how big of a roll Valley Center is on and they couldn't get out of the way Friday night, Feb. 11, when the Hornets came to town.

Valley added Mulvane to its collection of trophies by taking advantage of Mulvane's turnovers and controlled the rebound battle to rock the Wildcats, 67-34, in a game featuring a Chisholm Trail League Division I team (VC) against a C.T.L. Division II team (Mulvane). It also marked the seventh victory in the last nine games for the Hornets, who started the season on a sour 1-6 roll.

The Wildcat boys looked good in the first quarter but as the second period ended, Valley threw up a half-court trap that the Cats didn't solve the rest of the game. "We came out and had a good first quarter," said Darrow. "We attacked their defense and did a nice job on the defensive glass early, but when they threw that half-court trap up, we didn't recognize it quickly enough and it

caused us a lot of problems. We hadn't worked on a half-court trap like that for a while, and we're the type of team that has to work every week on what people throw at us in games. It created a problem and they just took it to us. They got a lot of easy baskets off the trap."

And took the Cats out of the game quickly. After holding their own in the opening quarter (Mulvane trailed only 13-7), the Hornets hit the next gear, blowing past Mulvane with a 23-10 edge in the second period. Mulvane couldn't cut into VC's 36-17 lead in the third quarter and the rest is history. Valley nailed things down by hitting five three-pointers to none for Mulvane and made 20 of 30 free throws while the Cats made only eight of 19.

Bad things also happen when a team can't take care of the basketball. The Cats turned the ball over 25. "That is the most turnovers we've had since the Kingman game," said Darrow.

Mulvane had nine different players score but didn't have anybody take charge. Johnson finished with seven points and Marksberry scored six. Gerhardt chipped in with four.

In the junior varsity game, VC roasted the Cats, 52-23. Freshman Caleb Alexander and sophomore Jeremy Adams had four points each and 9th grader Dusty Sorensen finished with a team-high five points.

The Mulvane JVs also struggled in a game at Clearwater Tuesday, Feb. 8, losing by a 49-15 count. McKnight led the scoring with five points and Jonathan Reed scored four.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	4	9	6	13-32
Circle	20	15	11	18-64
Mulvane--	Ryan McKnight 4, Troy Johnson 5, Jesse Marksberry 6, Chris Gerhardt 11, Jared Rice 2, Jason Wilson 4	FG 12 (1), FT 7 11, F 32		
Circle--	Brundege 10, Jason Farmer 6, Brown 6, Gibson 5, Loeffler 4, Tyler Ryan 12, Justin Farmer 6, Hendrix 10, Hall 1, Froter 4	FG 19 (5), FT 21 29, F 15		
Valley Center	13	23	17	14-67
Mulvane	7	10	11	6-34
Valley Center	Coleman 13, Campbell 5, Denning 3, Blake Pearson 26, Wilmott 2, Clark 5, Powers 1, Williams 2, Ensley 3, Kreutzer 5	FG 21 (5), FT 20 30, F 21		
Mulvane--	Jason Wilson 2, Chris Brannon 1, Caleb Alexander 1, Jared Rice 2, Jesse Marksberry 6, Troy Johnson 7, Shawn Rogers 2, Ryan McKnight 2, Chris Gerhardt 4	FG 13 (0), FT 8 19, F 29		

Junior Varsity Boys

Valley Center	18	13	7	14-52
Mulvane	4	8	7	4-23
Valley Center	Denning 6, Drake 7, Wilmott 2, Ishman 8, Wheeler 7, Strodman 2, Nutter 2, Mullins 4, Tector 5, Powers 2, Edwards 5, Schooler 2	FG 21 (2), FT 10-20, F 21		
Mulvane	Jonathan Reed 3, Jeremy Adams 1, Jon Rogers 2, Caleb Alexander 4, Jimmie High 2, Ryan McKnight 3, Dusty Sorensen 5	FG 6 (0), FT 11 16, F 15		
Mulvane	4	5	2	4-15
Clearwater	17	8	14	10-49
Mulvane	Jeremy Adams 2, Jonathan Reed 4, Ryan McKnight 5, Kyle McGuire 0, Gregors Lange 2	FG 7 (0), FT 1-6, F 14		
Clearwater	Dody 3, Lang 3, Hazelton 8, Mills 4, Avila 15, France 2, Fleming 5, Henderson 4, Lahn 5, Brady 2	FG 20 (4), FT 5 10, F 13		