

# Boys Cool Down After Half

For one half, the Mulvane High School Wildcat boys pounded on the door of opportunity, but they couldn't knock it down.

The Cats lost their edge in the third quarter and could do no more than just wave as ranked Circle flashed past them by a 68-52 count Tuesday night, Feb. 16, in a Chisholm Trail League game in Mulvane.

The Thunderbirds used a third-quarter blitz of 22-10 to take the lead, then pulled away in the last quarter. They out-scored Mulvane, 40-19, in the final 24 minutes.

"We cooled off after missing only five shots in the first half," said Cat Coach Todd Barker. "We were hot but they threw a half-court trap at us in the third quarter and that threw us off."

After shooting 75% in the first half (15 of 20), the Cats finished with a 52% mark. The trouble was the T-Birds got hot in the second half and ended up hitting 62% for

the game (26 of 42). "They started shooting better in the second half and we started shooting worse and they just rolled right past us," said Barker.

Randy Johnson was high scorer for the MHS boys, scoring 22 points. Jesse Marksberry finished with 12 points and Jake Wilkinson and Brian Dinkel finished with six and five, respectively.

In the junior varsity contest Tuesday night, Mulvane stalled in the fourth quarter as Circle pulled away, 57-43. Jared Rice and Andy Hixson topped the Cat offensive effort with 12 points each. James MacKay scored seven points and Ryan McKnight finished with four.

The Cat sophomore boys played a preliminary game Tuesday night against Derby and came out on the short end of a 62-54 score. Ryan McKnight and Chris Gerhardt keyed the Mulvane offense with 15 and 11

points, respectively. Andy Hixson had seven points and Brian Love and Jason Wilson scored six points each.

The Wildcat boys were at Valley Center Friday night, Feb. 12, and it turned out to be anything but a show of affection by the hosts. The Hornets turned downright nasty on the Cats and blistered them, 71-33, in a game that really wasn't that close.

"We just never could get anything going," emphasized Coach Barker. "When you get down that quickly, it's tough to get it back together. And when you score only 33 points, you're not going to beat anybody. They were beating us baseline-to-baseline, just pushing it down our throats. They were that good, at least that night."

The Hornets, who boosted their record to 10-7, came out of the locker room smoking. By the end of the first quarter, they were up by six and by halftime, it was 29-15. Actually, the second and third quarters were

crucial. That's when VC stuffed the Wildcat boys by a 35-12 count. Try digging out from under that!

"Valley Center is so much more athletic than we are," said Barker. "They are very athletic. They beat us in just about every aspect of the game. When a team gets on a run like that, it's tough to beat 'em. We changed things up on them early and I thought we had weathered the storm, but they got it right back together and pulled away."

Another key to the victory by Valley was domination on the backboards. The Hornets beat the Cats up worse than anybody has this year. "They really hammered us on the boards," offered Barker. "I think the count was something like 39 for them and 20 for us. It's pretty tough to overcome that much of a rebounding difference. That's part of being athletic, though. They were quicker than we were, they could jump higher than we did and they moved into position around us. It was like they were stepping around our screen-outs and getting under the basket. When they didn't do that, they just jumped higher or went over the top."

The Hornets also put the clamps on Mulvane's No. 1 scorer and the No. 2 scorer in the C.T.L. Division II, Jesse Marksberry. Coming off two straight 25-point games, Marksberry was held to eight points and nobody picked up the slack. Senior Randy Johnson had six points, Jake Wilkinson had five and Jared Rice and and Garrett Hennes had four points each

"We just need to forget this one and go on," noted Barker. "We want to try to finish strong so we can get a home game in the sub-state."

The Wildcats also played junior varsity and sophomore games at Valley Center. The Hornet JVs pounded the Mulvane junior varsity, 74-43, and in a rare sophomore game, Mulvane bombarded the VC sophs, 63-42.

McKnight paced the MHS jayvee boys with 11 points. Nick Pope scored nine points and Jason Wilson scored five.

In the sophomore contest, McKnight dumped in a career-high 21 points. Wilson scored 13 in the soph game. Gerhardt had 10 while Kyle McGuire scored seven.

## Varsity Boys

Circle	18	10	22	18-68
Mulvane	17	16	10	9-52

Circle--Mike Hodgins 18, Brandon Hendrix 17, Mark Prilliman 4, Toby White 8, Travis Brundage 3, Jake Myers 8, Ryan Murphy 10. FG 26 (3), FT 13-20, F 12.

Mulvane--Randy Johnson 22, Jesse Marksberry 12, Jake Wilkinson 6, Brian Dinkel 5, Brian McColpin 3, James MacKay 4. FG 22 (6), FT 2-4, F 15.

Mulvane	10	5	7	11-33
Valley Center	16	13	22	20-71

Mulvane--Randy Johnson 6, Garrett Hennes 4, Jared Rice 4, Brian Dinkel 3, Jake Wilkinson 5, James MacKay 2, Brian McColpin 1, Jesse Marksberry 8. FG 12 (2), FT 7-14, F 12.

Valley Center--Micah Schmidt 10, Blake Pearson 2, Barbosa 5, Clark 12, Josh Truman 12, Kyle Bannick 11, Jason Kreutzer 3, Williams 13. FG 30 (4), FT 7-13, F 13.

## Junior Varsity Boys

Circle	14	20	7	16-57
Mulvane	12	13	12	6-43

Circle--Blake Adams 5, Shannon DeWeese 10, Nick Whitson 9, Aaron Alexander 7, Travis Brundage 3, Tony Short 4, Toby Loeffler 4, Mike Hagaborn 6, Tyler Gotschalk 7, Matt Green 2. FG 22 (3), FT 10-22, F 13.

Mulvane--Jared Rice 12, Andy Hixson 12, James MacKay 7, Derek Paul 2, Chris Brannon 2, Shawn Rogers 2, Kyle McGuire 2, Ryan McKnight 4. FG 20 (0), FT 3-7, F 20.

Mulvane	6	8	16	13-43
Valley Center	13	27	19	15-74

Mulvane--Derek Paul 2, Jared Rice 2, Ryan McKnight 11, Nick Pope 9, Chris Brannon 4, Kyle McGuire 3, Jason Wilson 5, James MacKay 3, Brian Love 2, Jonathan Reed 1, Andy Hixson 1. FG 14 (5), FT 10-17, F 23.

Valley Center--Josh Nesbit 9, Chase Ishman 4, Alex Richardson 14, Andy Luna 2, Matt Coleman 10, Jared Ensey 8, Justin Ivey 4, Jason Kreutzer 11, Jon Casey 10. FG 23 (2), FT 24-33, F 18.

## Sophomore Boys

Derby	23	16	9	14-62
Mulvane	9	26	9	10-54

Derby--Sears 20, Peck 12, Real 7, Riveros 4, Ingalls 6, Stone 4, Opara 9. FG 26 (6), FT 4-8, F 12.

Mulvane--Jonathan Reed 5, Jason Wilson 6, Kyle McGuire 4, Brian Love 6, Chris Gerhardt 11, Andy Hixson 7, Ryan McKnight 15. FG 24 (1), FG 5-13, F 16.

Mulvane	9	19	20	15-63
Valley Center	13	10	14	5-42

Mulvane--Jason Wilson 13, Ryan McKnight 21, Andy Hixson 5, Chris Gerhardt 10, Jonathan Reed 5, Brian Love 2, Kyle McGuire 7. FG 23 (0), FT 14-22, F 10.

Valley Center--Tony Pilla 9, Travis Mullins 2, Tim Strunk 2, Ron Killinger 10, Pat Edwards 8, Jeremy Tector 11. FG 16 (3), FT 7-10, F 20.