

# Cat Boys Finish Job; Sub-State Looms

This time, it was Mulvane's turn to make the free throws and put the game away, and the Wildcat boys did it Tuesday night, Feb. 17, when Clearwater came to town.

The Cats preserved their slender lead down the stretch to hold off the Indians, 55-51, marching out to 8-10 for the season.

"We needed a win in the worst way just to hold any home court hopes in the first round of the sub-state," said Coach Todd Barker. "We went out early on them (18-10 in the first quarter), then had to have Chad (Gerwick) and Bryce (Schumacher) hit their free throws in the last minute to win the game. Chad made one with about five seconds left that made it a four-point game."

Although the Wildcats won the game, it came with a cost as guard Darrin Erbert went out in the second quarter with a leg injury. "We struggled along after he went out but we survived," said Barker. "I liked the way we played them early but when Darrin went out, it took everybody a while to regroup before they started getting after it again. It was good to know that they could do it without Darrin. It wasn't a thing of beauty, but we got it done."

The Indians stepped up the heat in the second half and actually made it close after Mulvane had marched out to a 33-23 advantage at intermission. Clearwater, which dropped to 5-12, out-scored the Cats, 28-22, in the second half.

Center Rob Parker hit 14 points to spark the Mulvane offense. Sophomore Jesse Marksberry scored 11 points, Schumacher had nine and Dan McElroy scored eight as they Cats swept the season series against Clearwater.

Third quarters continued to be a nemesis for the Mulvane High School boys Friday night, Feb. 13, as Andale came to town and rained on the MHS parade.

It was Winter Homecoming for the Wildcats but Andale put a dent in the festivities by holding on for a 73-65 decision in a Chisholm Trail League game.

The Cat boys fell to 7-10 overall and 2-7 in the league with three games to play before tournament time. Andale improved its record to 10-6 overall and 5-3 in the league.

In the last couple of games, the Wildcats had been having trouble in the fourth quarters, but they made a run at the Indians in the last period behind a barrage of three-pointers. Mulvane hit six of them in the fourth quarter, out-scoring Andale, 24-18.

It wasn't enough, though, partially thanks to a Andale roll of 22-11 in the third quarter. "We really lost it in the third quarter," said Barker. "We came out cold and they came out hot. We were down only three at halftime but we couldn't hit a bucket. We didn't do anything differently and neither did they. The ball just seemed to roll in for them while our shots bounced off."

That gave the Indians a 55-41 edge going into the final period and three-pointers by Chad Gerwick, Bryce Schumacher and Dan McElroy only got the Cats closer, not over the top. "We actually got the game down to a four-point difference in the last quarter but then we missed a shot or two and they made a couple of quick ones. The kids tried to regroup but it's tough to make up much ground one point at a time. When we would hit a three, they'd come down and make two."

The Wildcats also got off to a lousy start, the Indians squirting out to a 17-7 lead in the first quarter. "We gave them too many opportunities at the free throw stripe in the first half, way too many," complained Barker. "They went 15 of 18 at the line. We were picking up a lot of cheap fouls. We finally adjusted to the way things were being called in the second half and they only got two more but the damage was done."

Two other areas of damage weren't controlled. The Indians simply owned the backboards, clearing 38 rebounds to only 18 for the Wildcats. Ten of their rebounds came at the offensive end.

And the Indians also took advantage of Mulvane's greatest weakness: defense on the inside.

"We tried to plug it up on the inside but they have a lot of size," said Barker. "And we had Robbie (Parker) on the bench with foul troubles the whole game. In the first game against Andale, they hurt us inside so

## CTL Sub-State Basketball Assignments

### CLASS 4A

#### At Mulvane

Mulvane, Rose Hill, Chaparral, Clearwater, Kingman, Wellington, Pratt, Douglass

#### At Hesston

Circle, Andale, Augusta, Smokey Valley, Nickerson, Hesston, Haven, Ellsworth

### CLASS 5A

#### At Goddard

Maize, Valley Center, Goddard, Liberal, Newton, Bishop Carroll, Campus, Kapaun Mt. Carmel

#### At Winfield

Andover, Coffeyville, Independence, Pittsburg, Fort Scott, Arkansas City, El Dorado, Winfield

#### At Salina Central

Buhler, Topeka Seaman, Great Bend, Hays, McPherson, Topeka West, Salina South, Salina Central

we wanted to try to stuff that up and not let them shoot point-blank. It (Mulvane's interior defense) was much better than it has been the last couple of games but we didn't get the job done. They had one player get quite a few points in there, but at least we challenged things instead of letting them shoot. It's still not good enough."

Barker still feels like the Wildcats can make it interesting the last two weeks of the season. "I've always felt good about the outlook," said Barker. "We've had a lot of close games that we could have won. The boys always play hard and they still feel we can get some place in the sub-state, and I think we still have a legitimate shot at something there, too."

Schumacher led the Mulvane scoring with 20 points. Dan McElroy finished with 14 points, Chad Gerwick scored 10, Darrin Erbert had nine and Rob Parker had eight.

In the junior varsity game, Andale came alive in the second half to spank the Cat JVs, 71-66, coming from behind by out-scoring Mulvane, 45-32, in the final half.

Mulvane's top scorers were Randy Johnson with a huge game—27 points, and Garrett Hennes with 17. Jake Wilkinson and Brian McColpin had seven each and Brian Dinkel six.

The Cats have only two more games before hosting the sub-state the first week of March. They play at home against Chaparral Friday night, Feb. 20, before ending the regular season with an unusual Thursday night game Feb. 26 at Circle.

#### Varsity Boys

Clearwater	10	13	17	11-51
Mulvane	18	15	13	9-55
Clearwater—Tim Hastings 9, Tim Wallace 5, David Lehl 6, Jerry Rausch 4, Landon Langston 27. FG 23 (3), FT 2-3, F 11.				
Mulvane—Dan McElroy 8, Jesse Marksberry 11, Darrin Erbert 4, Bryce Schumacher 9, Chad Gerwick 7, Sean Holman 2, Rob Parker 14. FG 23 (4), FT 5-8, F 8.				

#### Varsity Boys

Andale	17	16	22	18-73
Mulvane	7	23	11	24-65
Andale—Nate Steven 6, Adam Spexarth 19, Justin Robelli 3, Scott Weber 11, Troy Simon 10, Kent Brand 23, Zac Richards 1. FG 26 (4), FT 17-20, F 19.				
Mulvane—Dan McElroy 14, Bryce Schumacher 20, Chad Gerwick 10, Darrin Erbert 9, Jesse Marksberry 3, Rob Parker 8, Ryan Rogers 1. FG 22 (11), FT 10-17, F 22.				

#### Junior Varsity Boys

Andale	14	12	21	24-71
Mulvane	18	17	13	19-66
Andale—Chad Meyer 7, Brandon Caselman 11, Nathan Temes 16, Dean Leahy 16, Luke Eck 9, Nathan Simon 2, Mark McFadden 2, Zack Richards 4, Jordan Peltzer 2. FG 27 (2), FT 15-23, F 14.				
Mulvane—Brian Dinkel 6, Jake Wilkinson 7, Randy Johnson 27, Brian McColpin 7, Garrett Hennes 17, Andy Hixson 2, Jared Rice 2. FG 26 (6), FT 10-13, F 10.				
Mulvane	16	10	16	21-63
Rose Hill	25	21	11	22-79
Mulvane—Randy Johnson 17, Brian McColpin 10, Jake Wilkinson 6, Jesse Marksberry 3, Garrett Hennes 9, Josh Hanson 3, Brian Dinkel 6, Tom Anderson 4. FG 23 (3), FT 9-16, F 17.				
Rose Hill—Billy Taylor 12, Spencer Holland 14, Ryan Armstrong 7, Chris Schneider 7, Joe Chandler 8, Aric Cox 1, Troy Powell 13, Aaron Allen 2, Phil Harden 9, Charlie Delaney 4. FG 29 (4), FT 15-19, F 17.				