

Scrambling Cats Ramble

Mulvane recuperated from a bad case of poor playing in the first half by launching its standard comeback using a pressure defense in the second half to overtake Wellington, 49-45, Tuesday night, Feb. 18, in a Chisholm Trail League game.

More importantly, Coach Charlie Mason's boys improved their overall record to 8-9 as the Wildcats scramble for home court advantage in the first-round of the sub-state. In the league, the Cats are 4-4. Wellington dipped to 1-7 in the CTL and 5-11.

"We missed a lot of shots in the first half (when MHS went seven of 28 from the field) and we tried to give it away in the last two or three minutes," said Mason. "We turned the ball over twice and missed the front end of one-and-ones three times but came out a winner. You've got to give the kids credit. They were down the whole ball game, like we were at Augusta, but came back and won it. This was a big ball game to win because it gives us a chance to get the home court in the first sub-state game."

The Crusaders were well ahead in the first half before Mulvane mounted a charge in the final 16 minutes. Two free throws by Curtis Hicks with 19 seconds left gave Mulvane some breathing room with a 48-45 lead and Hicks made one of two with six seconds left.

The junior guard finished with his best offense of the season, scoring 21 points. Morgan LeClair scored 12 points and Todd Fox had 10. Andrew Swayne led Mulvane's rebounding with nine caroms.

Boys Varsity
 Mulvane 6 9 19 15--49
 Wellington 8 16 11 10--45
 Mulvane--Curtis Hicks 21, Morgan LeClair 12, Todd Fox 10, Andrew Swayne 0, Jerrod Sorenson 2, Reese Brown 2, Kyle Steadman 2. FG 18-51, FT 13-20, F 8.

Wellington--John Wetta 14, Rich McKain 11, Johnny Velasquez 6, Richard Keith 6, Sean Becker 5, Richard Lara 2. FG 21-60, FT 3-5, F 19.

Boys Junior Varsity
 Mulvane 10 13 10 9--42
 Wellington 8 10 7 15--40
 Mulvane--Ken Baer 1, Jeff Williams 6, Lyle Graybeal 6, Bryson Butts 9, Shay Cornejo 8, Toby Butcher 6, Neal Hamilton 6. FG 18, FT 6-10, F 9.
 Wellington--Richard Lara 5, Jamie Cornejo 2, Sean Becker 10, Curtis Walker 4, Chad Sterns 3, Clint Whitney 4, Mickey Rusk 2, Tony Ybarra 10. FG 20, FT 2-5, F 13.

Sophomore Boys
 Mulvane 2 6 6 15--29
 Wellington 6 10 16 9--41
 Mulvane--Neal Hamilton 2, Jeremy Hoenscheidt 4, Pat Lockwood 3, Russell Norden 6, Rodger Kendall 4, Sean Gillespie 6, Andrew Hodges 4. FG 14, FT 1-6, F 14.
 Wellington--Eric Adams 10, Brian McClure 7, Billy McEl 8, Todd Phipps 4, Curtis Walker 6, Jamie Cornejo 6. FG 19, FT 3-8, F 11.

Boys Varsity
 Buhler 12 21 16 17--66
 Mulvane 10 16 13 20--59
 Buhler--Jed Bargaen 17, Sam Schwerdtfeger 7, David Howell 10, Allen Martens 24, Rick Frye 8. FG 27, FT 12-22, F 14.
 Mulvane--Curtis Hicks 8, Kyle Steadman 4, Andrew Swayne 12, Morgan LeClair 15, Todd Fox 20. FG 27, FT 5-10, F 21.

Boys Junior Varsity
 Buhler 21 20 15 21--77
 Mulvane 7 13 11 22--53
 Buhler--Chad Comely 8, Shane Wiehl 13, Brad Williams 9, Greg Lackey 6, Eric White 13, Darrell Griggs 6, Travis Kennedy 6, Doug Martens 8, James Regehr 2, Stacy Roberts 6. FG 32, FT 15-20, F 18.
 Mulvane--Nick Fortin 2, Jeff Williams 10, Lyle Graybeal 12, Bryson Butts 15, Shay Cornejo 10, Neal Hamilton 4. FG 20, FT 13-20, F 53.

The Wildeat junior varsity also squeezed out a close win, 42-40. In that game, Bryson Butts scored nine points and sophomore Shay Cornejo was second with eight.

Wellington's sophomores topped Mulvane in the first game of the evening, 41-29. High for Mulvane in the soph game was Sean Gillespie and Russell Norden with six points apiece.

Superior size prevailed Friday night, Feb. 14, when the Wildcats got their final crack at Chisholm Trail League-leading Buhler in Mulvane. The Crusaders held off a furious charge by the Wildcats in the final quarter for a 66-59 decision.

In the junior varsity battle, Buhler belted the Cats, 77-53.

"We just gave them too many offensive rebounds in the first half,"

complained Mason. "When you're bucking 6-6, 6-4, 6-4, it's tough when you're only 6-2. We tried to sag inside but they went right over the top. We gave (Allen) Martens 18 points in the first half and that's too many."

The Cats appeared poised for an upset of the CTL leaders when they came from 14 points off the pace to pull within three, 62-59, on buckets by Fox, Swayne and Hicks. Two consecutive Mulvane turnovers and four-out-of-four from the free throw line enabled the Crusaders to hang on with almost a carbon copy victory of the Buhler win at Buhler.

"I thought we would get them at that point but we missed a couple of layups and threw the ball away a couple of times, then had to foul," said Mason. "We did a real good job getting back in the ball game but didn't capitalize on our chances."

The junior Fox sparked the Mulvane offense with 20 points. Frontline mates Swayne and LeClair also were in double figures, scoring 12 and 15 points, respectively, Swayne hitting three buckets down the stretch. Hicks finished with eight points.

Valley Center will be coming to Mulvane for a Chisholm Trail League game Friday night, Feb. 21, but more importantly, the Cats need an upset victory in their drive for home court advantage in the sub-state tournament. The four top seeds in the sub-state get to play their first round games on home turf.

Bryson Butts powered the MHS jayvee offense, scoring a career-high 15 points. Lyle Graybeal added 12 points and Jeff Williams and Shay Cornejo each had 10.

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	8	0	11	7
Valley Center	6	2	12	5
Mulvane	4	4	8	9
Augusta	2	6	8	10
Goddard	3	5	6	11
Wellington	1	7	5	11
DIVISION II				
Clearwater	6	0	13	5
Andale	4	1	10	7
Rose Hill	3	2	11	8
Maize	2	2	10	7
Circle	3	3	7	10
Kingman	2	3	6	11
Andover	1	4	2	15
Chaparral	0	7	0	17

Games Friday, Feb. 21

Valley Center at Mulvane
 Wellington at Augusta
 Buhler at Goddard
 Cheney at Rose Hill
 Andale at Maize
 Kingman at Andover
 Chaparral at Circle

Results Tuesday, Feb. 18

Mulvane 49, Wellington 45
 Buhler 67, Valley Center 60
 Goddard 57, Augusta 52
 Rose Hill 72, Chaparral 66
 Circle 70, Maize 47
 Clearwater 48, Kingman 45
 Andale 81, Andover 35