

Defense: 25 Points

All About Attitude

Attitude and defense, and Mulvane's Wildcat boys had both qualities when they went to Rose Hill Tuesday night, Feb. 11, for the last of three games against the fading Rockets.

It was a game between teams going in opposite directions. The Cats seemed to be pointed upward in the right direction. The Rockets appear to be headed on a downward trend, and the Wildcats kept RH headed in that direction with a 41-25 drubbing in Rose Hill.

"It was really an ugly game," confessed Coach Ryan Herra. "They were gunning shots from every place and so we decided to try and run some offense in the second half, slow things down and get the best shot we could. I was really proud of our kids for doing exactly that. We would run 30 seconds and get a good shot and make it. The pace of the game definitely was dictated by us, which is what we want to happen every game."

Another area of satisfaction for Herra was the team defense. "Our defense was good," pointed out Herra. "The only disappointment all night was our rebounding. We gave up 16 offensive rebounds and that's way too many offensive rebounds to give up. Part of the problem could have been that it was such a wild, odd game, but still, that's too many offensive boards to give to the other team."

The 25 points given up is the fewest the Cats have given up in more than the last 25 years. During the 1983-84 State championship season, the Wildcats waxed Augusta, 64-30, in the final game of the regular season.

The Cat boys have played heady ball since losing on the road to Goddard in a double overtime thriller that the Wildcats could have easily won. They followed that by blowing out Clearwater, then losing a close one to Winfield. Two victories over Rose Hill and two narrow defeats at Valley and at home against Augusta have Herra excited about Mulvane's prospects as the team heads down the stretch.

"Against Rose Hill, mentally, we had to execute offense to be successful," said Herra. "I put the pressure on the kids to do that and they did for the most part. We only took two shots in the second half that were outside and we made them both. Dusty Sorensen and Nick Hansen both knocked one down. The rest of the offense was inside. I felt like our offense was deliberate and showed patience. That's what we have to do to be successful."

The Wildcats stretched a four-point half-time lead into seven, 29-22, by the three-quarter mark before putting the lock on the bucket. Mulvane's defense held Rose Hill to only three points in the 2nd period, then did it again in the 4th.

And offensively, Mulvane had rounded

Boys Varsity

Mulvane	4	9	12	17-42
Maize	22	15	17	11-65
Mulvane	Zach Kimble 7, Greg Flores 3, Luke Gunter 4, Dusty Sorensen 6, Tyler Hennes 5, Gavin Snider 12, Grant Snider 2, Nick Hansen 5, FG 16 (3), FT 7-16, F 12			
Maize	Ryan Lungwitz 12, Brillhart 6, Michael Dillon 12, Loew 11, Barney 5, Wilson 4, Mohr 4, Petrich 5, Riffel 6, FG 24 (5), FT 12-18, F 18			
Mulvane	9	7	13	12-41
Rose Hill	9	3	10	3-25
Mulvane	Dusty Sorensen 8, Nick Hansen 6, Greg Flores 3, Luke Gunter 3, Gavin Snider 4, Zach Kimble 11, Tyler Hennes 4, FG 14 (3), FT 10-19, F 12			
Rose Hill	Lance Frey 11, Blake Ringwall 1, Kyle Foster 6, Dennis Shirley 4, Brad Hoplund 3, FG 9 (2), FT 5-9, F 17			

balance. The team's No. 1 scorer, junior Zach Kimble, scored 11 points. The senior Sorensen continued his late-season surge with eight points. Hansen had six and both Tyler Hennes and Gavin Snider scored four.

Buhler will be a big test for the Cat boys Friday night, Feb. 21. It will be Mulvane's final regular season road trip.

What is it about Maize that brings out a poor start in the MHS boys?

The Eagles buzzed out to a 22-4 lead in the first quarter and waltzed to a 65-42 victory Tuesday night, Feb. 18, in a Chisholm Trail League game in Maize.

"The whole story is that we got outscored, 22-4, in the first quarter, we had 20 turnovers in the first half and we totally succumbed to their pressure," emphasized Coach Herra. "They just have too much quickness for us. They shoot well and the intensity of the defense is just incredible. They don't allow you to catch your breath."

The Eagles, leaders in the CTL Division I, packed the Cats away by halftime. The score was 37-13.

"You have to be prepared for the amount of pressure they bring to the game and the amount of intensity they bring," said Herra. "We also knew that if you beat their pressure early, it would go away, but we didn't."

Herra said the Wildcats finally got into an offensive rhythm in the 3rd quarter. "We cut their lead down to 19 from 25 and had a free throw," said Herra. "We missed and they got the rebound and a long pass for an easy lay-up at the other end and that was about it for us."

Junior Gavin Snider sparked the Cat scoring effort with 12 points. Zach Kimble pitched in with seven points, Dusty Sorensen scored six and both Tyler Hennes and Nick Hansen scored five points each with Luke Gunter added four points.

"Just put an asterisk next to this game," suggested Herra. "We just get out-manned when we go up against these guys. We have hung together too long, come too far, to let this end our season. It's just a bump in the road and we to overcome it. There are still too many winnable games in front of us."