

Mulvane's Clutch Shooting

Keeps Title Hopes Glowing

Mulvane used some clutch free throwing down the stretch and its ball-hawking defense to take a big step toward the No. 2 seed and a home berth in the first round of sub-state play by topping Clearwater, 66-62, Tuesday night, Feb. 24, in a non-league outing in Mulvane.

Coupled with a 67-53 verdict last Friday over Valley Center, the Cats will take a 14-5 record into the seeding process for the 4A sub-state at Augusta.

The Mulvane junior varsity had hot hands in Shay Cornejo and Neal Hamilton as it pasted Clearwater, 86-78.

Some clutch tosses from the stripe sealed the victory for MHS. After the Indians had closed to within two (62-60) with 45 seconds left, Curtis Hicks slipped in two free throws with 16 seconds remaining and Todd Fox iced things with a pair with seven ticks left.

"We got the people we needed to have at the line to the stripe and they made the shots," said Charlie Mason, Mulvane High School coach who closed to within one victory of his 100th in his eight seasons here. "There was a lot on the line even though it wasn't a conference game. We needed it for a better seed plus they beat us last year. I was proud of the kids. The defense is really picking up. Clearwater's big kid (Chris Hickman) scored only three points in the first half and he's one of the best big men in the state."

Bottling up Hickman enabled Mulvane to forge up to a 10-point lead in the first three quarters before Hickman led the charge back into the game with nine points in the last period.

For the Wildcats, guard Hicks scored a game-high 22 points, including hitting six of seven at the free throw line. Both Morgan LeClair and Todd Fox added 16-point games and the other two starters, Kyle Steadman and Andrew Swayne scored six each.

Cornejo drilled a career-high 37 points and Hamilton added a career-high 28 as the Cat jayvees rambled against Clearwater. Norman Bowen added eight for the Cats.

The Wildcat boys clinched at least a share of the Chisholm Trail League

Division I championship by roping Valley Center down the stretch. A victory in the regular season finale Friday night, Feb. 27, at Augusta would give the Cats their second championship in three years. Until the 1984-85 season, Mulvane hadn't won a league championship since the 1965-66 season.

Mulvane appeared in control most of the way at Valley after bolting to an 18-10 lead in the first quarter but the host Hornets got back into the game in

Varsity Boys

Clearwater 11 16 16 19-62
Mulvane 16 18 13 19-66

Clearwater--Jamie Newlin 10, Chris Hickman 18, John Foley 13, Danny Biby 11, Jason Jones 10. FG 26, FT 10-18, F 16.

Mulvane--Kyle Steadman 6, Curtis Hicks 22, Morgan LeClair 16, Todd Fox 16, Andrew Swayne 6. FG 25, FT 16-21, F 16.

Junior Varsity Boys

Clearwater 18 20 22 18-78
Mulvane 23 17 21 25-86

Clearwater--McMahan 4, Trotter 4, Friend 18, Slump 20, Cocking 12, Machart 20. FG 32, FT 14-24, F 28.

Mulvane--Shay Cornejo 37, Neal Hamilton 28, Russel Norden 2, Norman Bowen 8, Jeremy Hoenscheldt 5, Sean Gillespie 3, Jo Nordenadler 2, Justin Springer 1. FG 34, FT 18-31, F 20.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane 18 10 14 25-67
Valley Center 10 11 16 16-53

Mulvane--Kyle Steadman 19, Andrew Swayne 12, Morgan LeClair 15, Todd Fox 20, Curtis Hicks 8, Jeff Williams 2. FG 25-54, FT 17-28, F 17.

Valley Center--Kent Gerely 4, Mike Brown 1, Eric Burns 15, Jerry Bozarth 2, Brian Phipps 12, Jeff Alstatt 3, Spike Anderson 8, Bob Scantlin 8. FG 22-58, FT 9-17, F 20.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane 13 13 11 13 (6)-56
Valley Center 12 12 12 14 (4)-54

Mulvane--Shay Cornejo 24, Huey Nelson 13, Neal Hamilton 12, Russell Norden 2, Jeremy Hoenscheldt 5. FG 24, FT 8-19, F 12.

Valley Center--Jared Kraus 2, Carl Franklin 4, Rod Hurlbutt 16, Brett Warne 4, Carlos Williams 12, Bill Glover 2, Todd Adrian 14. FG 25, FT 4-11, F 16.

Sophomore Boys

Mulvane 6 14, 4 16-40
Valley Center 12 15 23 12-62

Mulvane--Phillip Beehler 2, Sean Gillespie 17, John Heinrichs 5, Mike Higgins 2, Andrew Hodges 5, Larry Lambrecht 9. FG 32, FT 8-14, F 9.

Valley Center--Bill Glover 12, Brett Warne 4, Larry Boese 10, Todd Adrian 6, Pierce 12, Bret Kittle 14, Carlos Williams 4. FG 28, FT 6-10, F 11.

the third quarter, closing to within four points.

"I thought we played a pretty good ball game," emphasized Mason. "Defensively, we played a very good game. We gave the Alstatt kid 20 when he was here the first time and we pretty much shut down the Burns and Phipps kids. They also had trouble handling our half-court trap. They had 19 or 20 turnovers. And we did a real good job on the boards, at least in the first half.

"It was a big ball game, in fact both of them this past week have been big ones. We needed to have them for the league. The worst we can do now is a tie but nobody wants a tie."

Mulvane won the battle of the boards by one with Fox, Swayne and Steadman all peeling off six rebounds.

Balance again marked the offensive punch with four players in double figures. Fox connected for 20 points and Steadman finished with another big game, 19. Forward LeClair finished with 15 points and Swayne scored 12.

In the junior varsity game, Mulvane came away with a thrilling victory, 56-54, in overtime. Shay Cornejo took game honors with a 24-point explosion. Huey Nelson added 13 points and Neal Hamilton scored 12 for Coach Bruce Eitzen's club.

The Cat sophomores were jarred by a 62-40 count at Valley. A 23-4 edge by the hosts in the third quarter broke the game open. Sean Gillespie led Mulvane scorers with 17 points and Larry Lambrecht scored nine. John Heinrichs and Andrew Hodges were next with five points apiece.

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x-Mulvane	7	2	14	5
Buhtler	6	3	7	12
Valley Center	5	4	7	12
Wellington	5	4	7	11
Augusta	3	6	7	12
Goddard	1	9	3	16

DIVISION II

x-Circle	5	1	17	2
Kingman	4	2	12	7
Maize	4	2	13	6
Rose Hill	3	3	8	11
Andale	3	3	9	10
Andover	3	3	7	12
Clearwater	2	4	10	9
Chaparral	1	5	5	14

x--clinches at least a tie for division championships