

MHS Gains Momentum

Earlier this season, the Mulvane Wildcat boys had a heartbreaker in Goddard. Ahead all the way, the Cats lost it in two overtimes.

The Cats didn't make the same mistake twice as they buried the Lions, 68-47, in a Chisholm Trail League game in Mulvane. It was one of Mulvane's best-balanced games in several years.

"The difference is the guys went out there and hit their shots," said Coach Ryan Herrs. "Over there, we got up, missed a couple of free throws that would have ended it and let them back in the game and they beat us in two overtimes. This time, we got up on them and kept on going."

And the key was an offense that was hitting on all cylinders and a defense that was solid. In fact, the Cats have played pretty solid defense most of the last half of the season. "The key was us hitting our shots," said Herrs. "We had 35 points at half and we had been averaging about 40 (points) the last three or four games. We hit some shots early from the outside and then tried to go inside more in the second half. That gave us a lot of balance."

And it also made the Wildcats more difficult to defend against.

"Hopefully, we can gain some momentum," said Herrs. "It was a big win for us, no question. But what was bigger for us was the kids stepping up and hitting their shots. We hit seven threes. I don't know what percentage we ended up with but we were 6-for-10 in the first half."

That was enough to let the Cats charge to the front of the pack. Mulvane was ahead by six by the end of the first quarter and extended that advantage to 15 by intermission, 35-20.

Guard Luke Gunter had a career game against the Lions, scoring 11 points. Zach Kimble finished with a game-high 19 points, Greg Flores added 13 and both Tyler Hennes and Dusty Sorensen pumped in eight points.

"Gunter's play lately has been big," pointed out the MHS coach. "He handled things, put the team on his shoulder and carried us through. His maturity really showed. He's playing like a senior."

"We had confidence," said Herrs. "Everybody felt it. The kids went out there and asserted themselves and they got the job done. It was definitely one of our best performances this year, and in fact, the last three years. It was the kind of game you hope you play all the time."

Herrs is hoping the momentum and confidence gained will carry the club into next

Boys Varsity

Goddard	11	9	13	14	47
Mulvane	17	18	16	17	68
Goddard-	Josh Riesgo 6, Andy Womack 3, Ryan Bohanon 9, Antwan Seymore 10, Austin Burns 15, Haley Collins 2, FG 14 (5), FT 12 (8), F 10				
Mulvane-	Luke Gunter 11, Dusty Sorensen 8, Zach Kimble 19, Tyler Hennes 8, Greg Flores 13, Gavin Snider 2, David Mason 1, Grant Snider 2, Nick Hansen 4, JG 22 (7), FT 17 (22), F 14				
Mulvane	9	4	18	1	32
Buhler	17	15	21	8	61
Mulvane-	Grant Snider 2, Greg Flores 8, Dusty Sorensen 6, Zach Kimble 9, Tyler Hennes 5, Gavin Snider 2, FG 11 (3), FT 7 (13), F 23				
Buhler-	Brett Cikaneck 5, Ben Corwin 9, Brandon Graber 9, Brandon Cameron 20, Josh Friesen 2, Ty Richert 1, Caleb Lind 3, Jake Slover 5, Andy Preston 7, FG 20 (7), FT 14 (27), F 13				

Junior Varsity Boys

Goddard	8	6	12	10	36
Mulvane	4	10	8	2	24
Goddard-	Stockman 4, Womak 2, Hull 3, Renter 2, Collins 2, Erwin 4, Puthoff 2, Russell 17, FG 15 (0), FT 6 (6), F 13				
Mulvane-	Logan Sorensen 5, Jason Turner 2, Grant Snider 2, Cris Stephens 4, Gavin Snider 5, Tyler Dale 2, Kyle Womack 4, FG 9 (1), FT 5 (14), F 15				

Douglass Class 4A Boys Sub-State Pairings

Monday, March 3

FIRST ROUND

No. 8 Mulvane (6-13) at No. 1 Andover Central (16-3), 7

No. 7 Council Grove (6-13) at No. 2 Andover (15-4), 7

No. 6 Circle (7-12) at No. 3 El Dorado (10-9), 7

Tuesday, March 4

FIRST ROUND

No. 6 Douglass girls (3-16) at No. 3 Rose Hill girls (7-12), 6 p.m.

No. 5 Douglass boys (7-12) at No. 4 Rose Hill boys (9-10), 7:30

Thursday, March 6

AT DOUGLASS

Game 1 semifinals, 6 p.m.

Game 2 semifinals, 7:30

Saturday, March 8

Game 3 (Boys Championship) winners of games 1 and 2, 7:30

week's Douglass Class 4A Sub-State Pairings announced find the Wildcats (6-13) banging heads with No. 1 seeded Andover Central (16-3) in the first round at 7 p.m. Monday night, March 3, at Andover Central.

Buhler's Crusaders made short work of Mulvane when the Cat boys invaded Buhler Friday night, Feb. 21, for a Chisholm Trail League Division I game.

"They just killed us," said Coach Herrs. "Turnovers killed us and so did their shooting. They just didn't miss a shot." The Crusaders struck early and held Mulvane to only 13 points in the first half on the way to a 61-32 home triumph.

"Turnovers really hurt us, too," said Herrs. "I thought our kids just played tired. The guys have been working so hard to get their victories and they just seemed to tire out against Buhler."

Herrs had hoped to control the tempo of the game. On Mulvane's first possession of the contest, they passed the ball 32 times but still couldn't get an open shot. "Their defense is tough, it's solid," pointed out Herrs. "You have to hit some outside shots when you play them. Otherwise, they just tighten things down in the middle. They crowd the middle more every time you miss an outside shot. When you don't hit any thing outside, they just closed it down inside and you don't get anything there either."

The Wildcats made a mini move at the Crusaders in the 3rd quarter. Down by 22, the Cats cut the gap to 16 and had the ball but that momentum ended with a couple turnovers. "That was our best stretch," said Herrs. "The kids were doing a good job rebounding and a good job offensively. They were getting it done then, but we had a couple of turnovers and they went down and hit a couple of shots and it was back up there."

Then, there was the 4th quarter. One point. "We just completely fell out of contention," said Herrs.

The Cat coach said the long bright spot was the play of point guard Luke Gunter. "Luke Gunter again made me very proud," said Herrs. "He had only one turnover the whole game and got us in our offense. His leadership and hustle were great. He's doing exactly what I am asking him to do."

Zach Kimble once again paced the Mulvane scoring game. He had nine points, Greg Flores scored eight points, Dusty Sorensen scored six and Tyler Hennes dropped in five.

The Wildcats will play their final home game tonight (Feb. 27) when Valley Center comes to town. The boys will play in the Douglass Class 4A Sub-State next week.