

# No 'March Magic' For Cats, Boys Eliminated

The magic is gone. Gone, at least, but not forgotten. Mulvane High School boys were eliminated from sub-state play Tuesday night, March 2, in a first-round loss at Augusta.

The host Orioles toppled the "kings" by a 73-68 count in overtime in the Augusta 4A Sub-State, marking the first time in four years Mulvane's "magic" won't be in the sub-state championship game.

In the final, hectic moments, it appeared the Wildcats of Coach Charlie Mason would be going on to semifinal play Friday night, March 4, but an off-balance shot at the gun by Augusta's Chad McDaniel fell through and sent the game into overtime. In the extra period, Augusta nailed 10 of 16 free throws to win the ball game.

The loss ended Mulvane's season at 9-12. Augusta marched on with a 12-9 mark and will meet Circle (14-7) in the 6:30 p.m. game Friday night at Augusta High School.

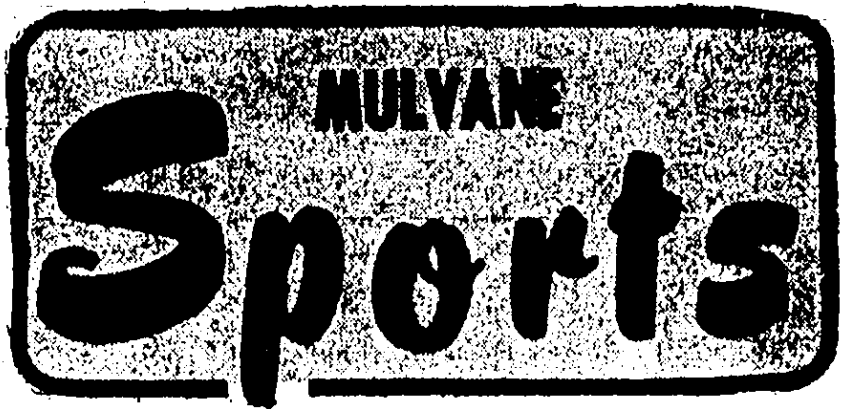
"It made a lot of difference playing on their floor," said Mason, who had hoped to get a first-round game at home. "That's always a big part of it. We got off to a slow start, falling behind, 18-8, but got back into it. I thought we were going to win it but McDaniel's last-second shot fell in and then they made their free throws in overtime. They made the ones they were supposed to make to win it.

"It should have never gone into overtime. We did a good job trapping and felt we had a backcourt violation but they missed it. After that, they got it inside and it's tough to stop the big kid."

The Wildcats had won the sub-state three of the last four years. "That was another motivation for them because they were aware of it," added Mason. "Everybody was pointing at Mulvane. Augusta just played extremely well. They did the things they had to do to win the ball game and they had balanced scoring, which is something they didn't have earlier against us. This is the best Augusta team I think I've seen since I've been here."

Senior Shay Cornejo led the Wildcat scoring with 23 points. Toby Butcher scored 15 and played a fine game and Neal Hamilton finished with 11 points. Junior Larry Lambrecht was next with nine Mulvane points.

Mulvane's boys ended their regular season by taking it on the chin at home against Maize in an unusual Thursday night outing, Feb. 25. Maize upped its pre-tournament record to 15-5 by beating the Cats, 77-70.



The loss gave Mulvane a 9-11 record going into the sub-state. In the Chisholm Trail League Division I standings, Mulvane finished third with a 7-5 record.

"We were looking at the Maize game as a chance to get to .500 and also a chance to get some recognition by beating a ranked team," said Mason. "Maize has been ranked in the top five in 4A most of the year. We stayed with them. I felt good about that. The kids played a decent game and faced pressure like they haven't faced all year. I think if we would have been more patient, the outcome would have been different."

Maize and Mulvane battled to a draw after two periods but Maize adjusted at intermission and came out flying in the third quarter. The Eagles out-scored Mulvane, 21-15, in the third quarter and that turned out to be the difference.

"They moved (Kelly) Cotton inside and it hurt," said Mason. "Also, their pressure defense got to us. We haven't had to face that kind of constant pressure all year. I felt like we did a good job against it in the first half but we just had too many turnovers in the second half. Both teams had turnovers but they seemed to make the most out of theirs. I don't think we took advantage of our turnovers."

The Wildcats had 28 turnovers while Maize was forced into 23. "If we could have taken care of business, if we could have taken our time and passed over the pressure, we would have been all-right," confessed Mason. "You hate to say that the 20th game of the season was a good learning experience but it was. We'll know what to do next time."

The Wildcats had a balanced offense again with the seniors Cornejo and Butcher pacing the pack. Cornejo finished with a game-high 25 points and Butcher scored 19 from the pivot. John Melick finished with 10 points and Larry Lambrecht, a junior, scored six points. Cotton scored 24 for Maize.

## AUGUSTA 4A SUB-STATE PAIRINGS Tonight (March 3)

Chaparral girls (20-0) vs. Clearwater girls (12-8), 6:30 p.m.

Rose Hill girls (16-5) vs. Augusta girls (13-8), 8:30 p.m.

Circle boys (14-7) vs. Augusta boys (12-9), 6:30 p.m.

Clearwater boys (12-8) vs. Rose Hill boys (6-15), 8:30 p.m.

Girls championship--Chaparral-Clearwater winner vs. Rose Hill-Augusta winner, 6:30 p.m.

Boys championship--Circle-Augusta winner vs. Clearwater-Rose Hill winner, 8:30 p.m.

## AUGUSTA 4A SUB-STATE FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 8 22 11 22 (5)--68

Augusta 18 12 16 17 (10)--73

Mulvane--Toby Butcher 15, Larry Lambrecht 9, Shay Cornejo 23, Russell Norden 2, Neal Hamilton 11, Sean Gillespie 7 FG 21 (2), FT 20-26, F 21.

Augusta--Ronnie Botterweck 16, Brian Rodriguez 14, Greg Eastman 3, Chad McDaniel 24, Lee Sims 2, Bryan Ralston 2, Chad Westbrook 12 FG 28 (0), FT 17-27, F 21

Clearwater 67, Wellington 64  
Rose Hill 52, Chaparral 44 (OT)  
Circle 64, Andover 59

## Varsity Boys

Maize 19 16 21 21--77

Mulvane 16 19 15 20--70

Maize--Chad Peck 10, Kelly Cotton 24, John Bezdek 10, Paul Baxter 14, David Brooks 4, Kirk Bliss 10, Mike Swearingen 5. FG 28-49 (0), FT 21-30, F 21

Mulvane--John Melick 10, Larry Lambrecht 6, Toby Butcher 19, Shay Cornejo 25, Neal Hamilton 2, Sean Gillespie 7, Russell Norden 1. FG 24-51 (2), FT 16-24, F 23.

## Junior Varsity Boys

Maize 14 23 26 18--81

Mulvane 17 8 14 22--61

Maize--Chris Pruitt 9, Chris DeZarn 2, Corey Lyon 7, Rick Rollins 6, Jay Mitchell 7, Chad Peck 7, Gary Van S eenburg 4, Ted Kilmer 10, Jason Norris 8, Louis Byrd 6, Larry Pickard 11. FG 30 (1), FT 21-29, F 24

Mulvane--John Heinrichs 5, Andrew Hodges 9, Mike Higgins 6, Mark McClellan 9, Curtis Norden 6, Bruce Brashear 4, Jeff Sisco 8, Andy Church 6, Todd Hedstrom 3, Sean Gillespie 5. FG 20 (3), F 12-25, F 24

The Wildcat junior varsity closed out its season at 5-9 by being thumped soundly by Maize, 81-61. A big second quarter, which saw the Eagles out-hit Mulvane, 23-8, was the backbreaker for the Cats.

Ten players scored for the Wildcats but none hit double figures. Andrew Hodges and Mark McClellan scored nine points apiece for MHS's jayvees and Jeff Sisco scored eight.