

# Wildcat BB Hopes Fade Away

Dim the lights, and put the basketballs up.

The season skidded to a close Tuesday night, March 1, for the Mulvane High School basketball boys as Rose Hill dumped the Cats, 67-46, in the opening round of the Bluestem Class 4A Sub-State.

The loss left Mulvane out of the shootout for a state tourney berth. The Cats ended the year with a 7-14 record, including an earlier victory over Rose Hill.

"Rose Hill shot well from the perimeter early and that kind of got them going," said Dale Landes, the MHS coach. "Clayton Dye is such a good ballplayer that you have to honor him inside and when you do that, you leave yourself open on the perimeter. They came out and hit four threes in the first quarter to get the lead."

The Wildcats made a run at the 15-6 Rockets, closing down the lead to nine points. "That's when their little guard took over. He scored the last eight points of the third quarter and it was suddenly back up to 13-14 points," said Landes. "We just didn't do a good enough job on the perimeter putting pressure on the ball."

In December, the Cats slipped past RH, 62-59, but it was a different story Tuesday

night. "Dye was the difference," stressed Landes. "He didn't play in the first game but he hurt us this time."

It also didn't help to have MHS senior Dan Smith, who finished with a game-high 20 points, foul out in the third quarter. Smith was dogged by foul trouble the entire game.

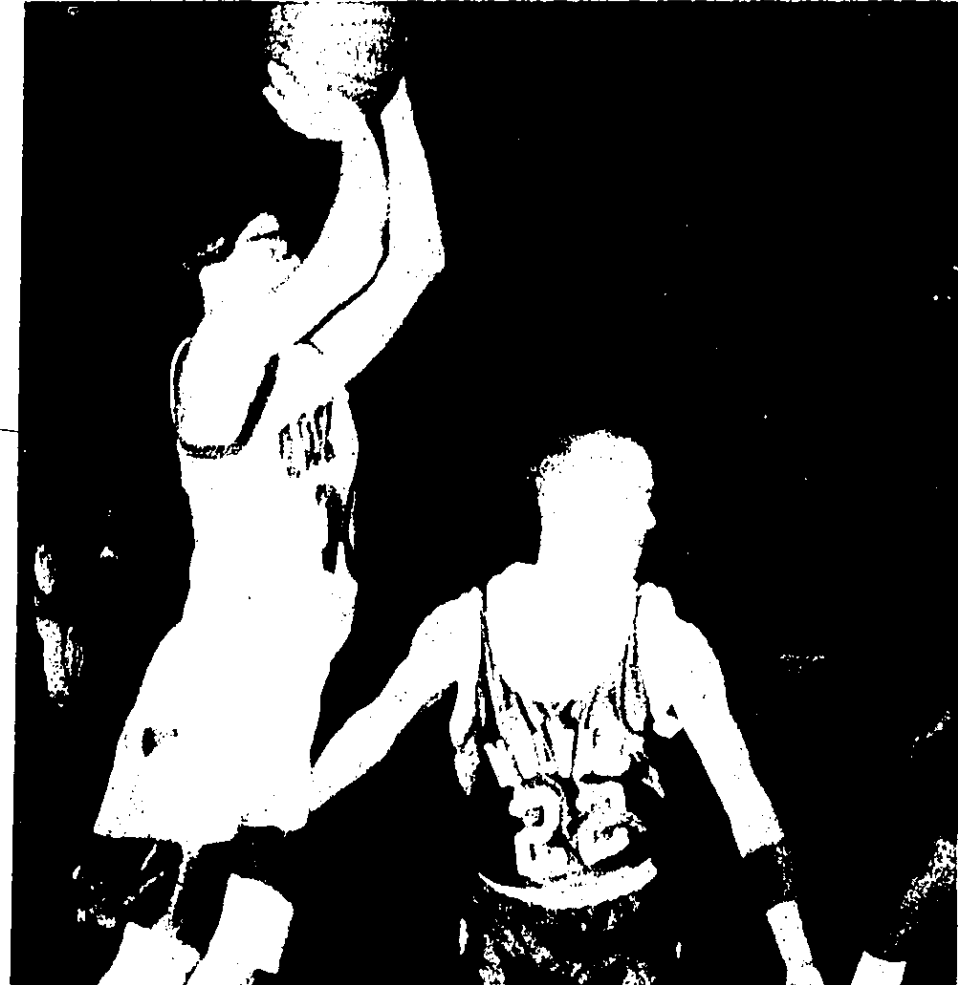
"We got 28 points out of Smith and (Jason) DeWald, which is pretty good, but on the perimeter, we never got untracked in the game," pointed out Landes. "Mike (Abasolo) got nine points but he got a lot of them late. We wanted to establish our inside game and we did that. When Rose Hill sucked back in defensively, we just didn't hit the shots we needed to to stay in the game. We talked about our outside shooting as being key at the start of the season and it turned out to be just that."

The Rockets, who hit eight threes for the game, rolled out to a 19-12 lead after one quarter and were in front by 13 by intermission, but Mulvane stayed close with guard Jeremy Brown hitting a three and Smith scoring eight in the third period. But RH started pulling away in the fourth quarter after Brette Tanner buried a three.

"If we could have executed throughout the whole game and played better defense for 32 minutes, it could have been a different ball game," said Landes. "But at this time of year, it's one loss and your out.

Unfortunately, the Wildcats are out.

Smith led Mulvane's offensive charge with 20 points, but he was the only player in twin figures. Abasolo scored nine points, DeWald had eight and Brown scored three.



Mulvane's Shawn Erbert (22) gets there too late to stop a "three" by RH's Tim Cline

## Bluestem 4A Boys Sub-State Results

### FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	12	10	15	8-46
Rose Hill	19	17	18	13-67

Mulvane—Tom Nienke 2, Jeremy Brown 3, Mike Abasolo 9, Shawn Erbert 2, Dexter Carpenter 2, Dan Smith 20, Jason DeWald 8. FG 20 (2), FT 4-5, F 18.

Rose Hill—Brette Tanner 16, Tim Cline 9, Jeff Jackson 1, David Ruark 2, Ryan Nelson 11, Clayton Dye 18, Kyle Holland 2, Clinton Abraham 6, Eric Moss 2. FG 26 (8), FT 7-12, F 12.

Circle 79, Bluestem 56

Andover 87, Wellington 62

Valley Center 74, Clearwater 38

## Bluestem 4A Boys Sub-State Pairings

### FRIDAY, MARCH 4

6 p.m.—Rose Hill (15-6) vs. Circle (16-5)

7:30 -- Valley Center (17-4) vs. Andover (13-8)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 5

6 p.m.—girls' championship

7:30 -- boys' championship