

Sub-State

Hello, Goodbye -- Flat Cats Boys Smashed In 1st Round

PRATT—It didn't take a nuclear scientist to figure it out. Come out flat, you go home.

The Mulvane High School Wildcat boys came out flat here Monday night, March 1, in the opening round of the Chaparral Class 4A Sub-State Tournament and Pratt took advantage of that posture to storm over the Cats, 76-61.

The loss ended Mulvane's "Cinderella" hopes. The shoe didn't fit.

Coach Dale Landes' Wildcats closed their season of hope at 6-15. Pratt (14-6), seeded No. 3 at Chappy, moves on to meet No. 2 seeded Nickerson at 6 tonight (March 4) in the boys' semifinal round at Chaparral High School.

Nickerson thumped Clearwater, 61-48, in the first round. Other first-round winners were No. 1 seeded Kingman (18-2), which trashed Chaparral, 82-49, and Rose Hill, an upset winner over the host Haven Wildcats, 62-54. Rose Hill and Kingman will tangle

Chaparral Class 4A Boys Sub-State Results

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 10 18 19 14-61
Pratt 22 22 14 21-76
Mulvane--Jeremy Kendrick 9, Dan Smith 12, Brian Heinrichs 10, Steve Nelson 14, Brian Strack 5, Jason DeWald 6, Guff Comejo 2, Jeff Parker 1, J.J. Dunn 2. FG 23 (7), FT 8-16, F 21.

Pratt--Jeremy Martin 16, Brett Belden 14, Casey Carlson 20, Brian Merriman 4, Cameron Reimer 4, Jason Befort 6, Ryan Briel 11, Kris Knight 2, Bryce Bolen 2. FG 27 (0), FT 25-31, F 16

Nickerson 61, Clearwater 48
Kingman 82, Chaparral 49
Rose Hill 62, Haven 54

in the 7:30 p.m. game tonight. The boys' championship will be contested at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at Chappy.

Landes and his Wildcats had gone into the tournament with hopes on high after winning three of their last five games, including an upset at highly-ranked

Goddard in the final game of the regular season last week. But the magic didn't carry over to Pratt.

"We got off to a very slow start, we came out flat," said Landes, who concluded his first season at the helm. "We started by doing something we hadn't done in a number of games and that's come out flat on defense. We have been coming out pretty strong defensively, but we didn't at Pratt. We allowed 22 points in the first quarter.

"It seemed like we were just a step slow all night. We had constant defensive breakdowns, we had bad rotations, we didn't stop the penetration by their ball handlers. These are all things we did well at Goddard, but we didn't do the job Monday night. You'd think we'd come out pretty strong after looking good down the stretch, but we didn't."

Instead, it was the host Greenbacks which looked good. Veteran coach Al Schoen had his club primed. They out-

Chaparral Class 4A Sub-State Pairings

Thursday, March 4

At Chaparral High School
6 p.m. Pratt boys (14-6) vs. Nickerson boys (16-5)
7:30 Rose Hill boys (10-11) vs. Kingman boys (18-2)

Friday, March 5

At Chaparral High School
6 p.m. Nickerson girls (16-3) vs. Pratt girls (12-8)
7:30 Kingman girls (14-5) vs. Chaparral girls (16-4)

Saturday, March 6

At Chaparral High School
6 p.m. girls championship
7:30 boys championship

scored the Cats, 22-10, in the first quarter and worked the lead out to 20 points early in the third quarter.

"Against Pratt, what we wanted to do was move the ball because we knew they had good outside pressure," pointed out

Landes. "We wanted to move the ball that extra pass. I told the kids if they held they ball, Pratt would have the advantage, and we held it early in the game and late in the game. Pratt has a very good 1-3-1 zone and a 1-2-2 trap but we just didn't take advantage of the things they gave us. When we moved the ball, we got good, open shots. We got the shots we wanted."

Twice in the second half, the Chisholm Trail Wildcats cut the lead to seven points but both times, Pratt spoiled things by reaching a different plateau.

"I credit our kids for scrapping," said Landes. "We cut the lead down to seven points in the third quarter and again in the fourth quarter, but each time we'd make a run at them, we'd have a breakdown offensively and defensively and give them a chance to get their own run going."

During Mulvane's runs, the offense was more aggressive and so was the MHS defense. "Our outside shooting was pretty good during those runs, too," admitted Landes, pointing to seven three-pointers during the game. "But the total defensive effort we needed against Pratt just wasn't there. That's about as simple as I can get it."

Two other factors really hurt Mulvane's upset attempt. The first was good free throwing by the Greenbacks. They hit 25 of 31 for the night, including 13 of 15 during the fourth quarter stretch run to keep Mulvane at bay. The second factor was foul trouble for Mulvane No. 1 scorer, senior J.J. Dunn, who finished the game with only two points.

"J.J. got into foul trouble early and never did get into the flow of the game," said

Landes. "He got three fouls early, forcing us to try and protect him the rest of the game. That makes it difficult for him to get into the flow of the contest."

Otherwise, the Wildcats had good balance with senior guard Steve Nelson having a fine game with a team-high 14 points. Inside players Dan Smith and Jason DeWald had 12 and six points, respectively, senior Brian Heinrichs scored 10 and senior reserve Jeremy Kendrick had nine. Senior Brian Strack scored five points.

Pratt also had a good showing on the boards, out-rebounding Mulvane to help pull away late in the game. "Pratt is a very good rebounding team and we missed our block-out assignments," said Landes. "They pounded the boards pretty good both on offense and defense."

Final Chisholm Trail Boys Basketball Standings

Team	DIVISION I		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x-Goddard	9	3	15	5
Buhler	8	4	13	6
Wellington	8	4	13	7
Valley Center	5	7	8	12
Mulvane	4	8	6	14
Maize	4	8	8	11
Augusta	4	8	8	12
DIVISION II				
x-Kingman	12	0	17	2
Andover	8	4	15	5
Circle	8	4	14	6
Rose Hill	6	6	9	11
Andale	4	8	5	14
Clearwater	3	9	4	16
Chaparral	1	11	1	18

x—won CTL championships; Standings do not include sub-state games