

Fouls Check Wildcats Out

Mulvane's first round sub-state game Monday night, March 3, was a microcosm of the season.

The saga included great promise, hope, enthusiasm, thunderous optimism and finally despair.

The No. 8 seeded Wildcats had No. 1 seeded Andover Central on the ropes for nearly the entire 32 minutes of the sub-state opener at Central only to have the Cougars gut it out down the stretch and win it in the last minute of play, 48-43, to end the season for Coach Ryan Herra's up-and-comers.

The Jaguars took their 17-4 record into the semifinals tonight (March 6) to play Rose Hill at 7:30 p.m. in the Douglass Class 4A Sub-State.

"That game was a tale of how our season's been," noted Herra. "We ended it the way we have ended a lot of our games, but that's not to say we haven't come a long way. We haven't been able to finish games. We're close but we let it slip away."

The Wildcats actually lead all of the 2nd and 3rd quarters and much of the 4th quarter before missing several baskets from point-blank range, giving up one critical turnover and going dry offensively. Central out-scored the Cats, 11-2, in the 4th quarter to rally for the win at home.

"In the 4th quarter, we made one basket. Andover Central made one," said Herra. "They won the game at the free throw line by hitting 9-for-11 free throws. We shot none. We were 7-for-8 at the line in the first half and we just didn't get the calls in the 4th quarter. They did."

Douglass 4A Boys Sub-State Results

First Round

Mulvane 15 16 10 2 -43
Andover Central 15 11 11 11 -48
Mulvane—Dusty Sorensen 10, Zach Kimble 12, Gavin Snider 4, Greg Flores 5, Grant Snider 3, Tyler Hennes 4, Luke Gunter 5. FG 16 (4), FT 7-8, F 16
Andover Central—Drew Armagost 3, Zach Flurry 5, Chris Rambolt 12, Jan Lang 3, Daniel Gonzalez 18, David Lee 7. FG 15 (2), FT 16 21, F 14

Rose Hill 53, Douglass 41
Andover 79, Council Grove 74
El Dorado 70, Circle 62 (OT)

Boys Varsity

Valley Center 12 9 7 15 43
Mulvane 10 16 10 18 54
Valley Center—Mike Bettsworth 7, Travis Rittel 7, Garrett Koenig 7, Jared Simon 11, Jan Lindstrom 5, Brock DeLong 2, Drew Goolsby 4. FG 17 (1), FT 8 (0), F 19
Mulvane—Zach Kimble 11, Nick Hansen 10, Luke Gunter 8, Gavin Snider 12, Greg Flores 2, Dusty Sorensen 1, Tyler Hennes 5, Grant Snider 4. FG 23 (4), FT 11-20, F 12

Junior Varsity Boys

Valley Center 10 7 9 18 54
Mulvane 13 7 20 9 49
Valley Center—Dustin Phelps 10, Jason Brungardt 5, Corey Carter 2, Drew Goolsby 17, Vaughn Scribner 8, Mike Bettsworth 7, Doug Westerfield 3, Brock DeLong 2. FG 21 (1), FT 11-17, F 20
Mulvane—Logan Sorensen 15, Kiel Mangus 6, Gavin Snider 7, David Mason 4, Jason Turner 3, Chris Stephens 3, Mason Leonard 3, Andy Beggs 2, Josh Trevin 6. FG 15 (5), FT 14-26, F 20

As the game got more physical down the stretch, the Wildcats were whistled for several fouls but the Jaguars had only two in the last quarter and that helped AC overcome a 5-point Mulvane lead in the final moments.

"We had a season-low eight or nine turnovers, we held up for the most part on defense and rebounding," confessed Herra. "Our kids did everything they needed to do to win. Our kids deserved to win but it just didn't happen for us."

Zach Kimble led the scoring charge with 12 points. Senior Dusty Sorensen hit for 10. Point guard Luke Gunter and Greg Flores scored five apiece and Tyler Hennes and Gavin Snider scored four points each.

The Wildcat boys closed out their regular season Thursday night, Feb. 27, by avenging another defeat, this time at the hands of Valley Center. The Hornets had squeaked past the Cats by three points earlier this season but MHS would have nothing to do with a home loss.

The Wildcats spanked the VC Hornets, 54-43, giving Herra's Cats a 13-13 record and a 4-8 mark in the Chisholm Trail League.

"I'm definitely pleased with our finish," said Herra. "The kids showed confidence, resilience and determination to put a positive spin on this season. And from a confidence standpoint, it has to give us a big boost going into sub-state play."

The Wildcats forged in front early and stayed there. "We played with determination," said Herra. "These kids didn't want to let anybody come into their place and beat them and that was the biggest factor in the game. The guys stayed with them. They faced the challenge head-on and stayed aggressive the entire time."

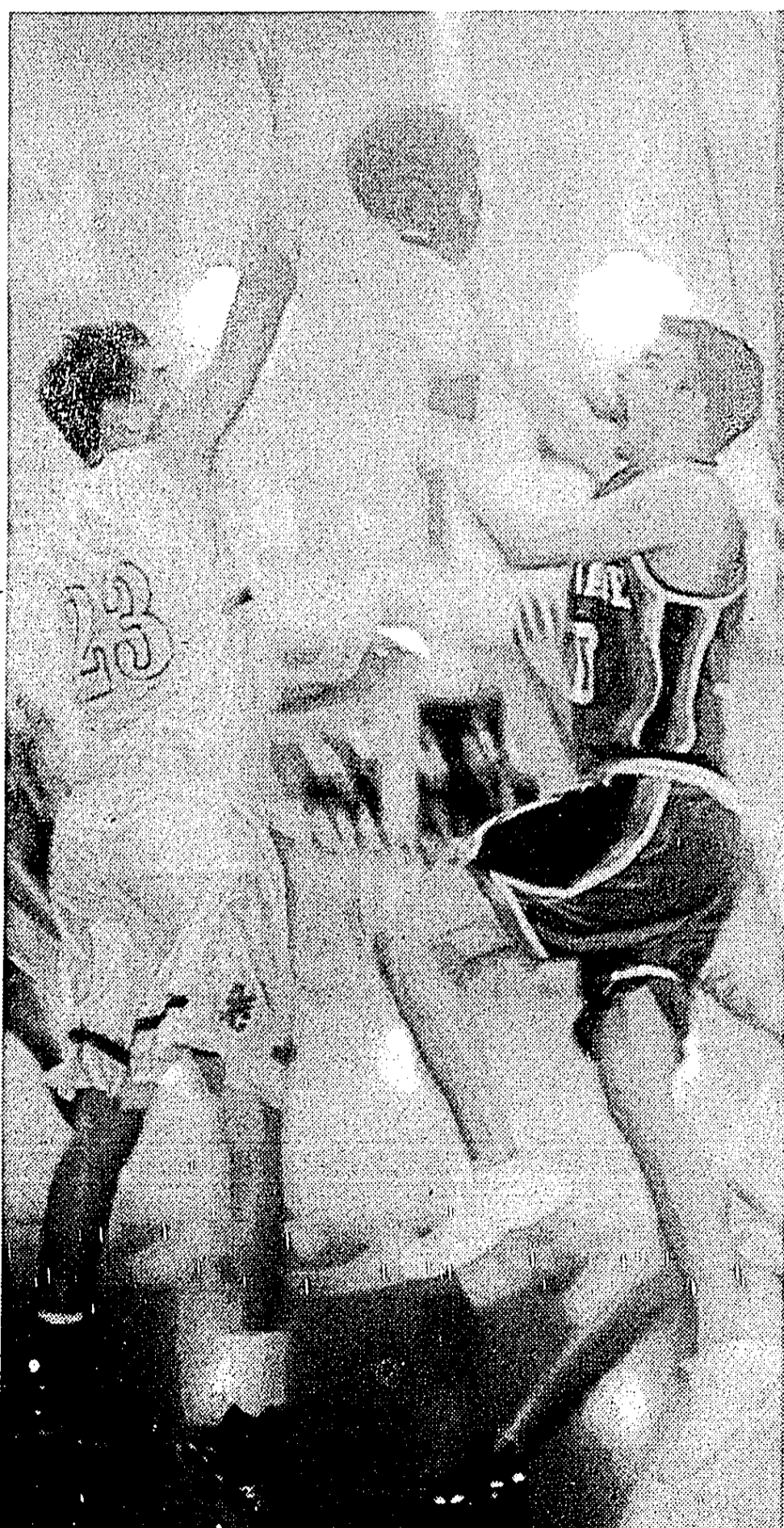
Defensively, Mulvane controlled the game and took charge of the tempo. It was "Mulvane basketball" time. It also was the fourth game in the last six where the Cat defense has held the opponent to 45 points or under.

"Throughout the year, our perimeter defense has been pretty good," stressed Herra. "Our kids were there to defend Goddard and Valley Center and that was one common denominator."

The biggest factor, however, was making shots against the Hornets. "The kids have been shooting the ball so well lately," said Herra. "They stepped up and hit the shots that they were supposed to hit. Earlier in the year, they weren't doing that but the last half of the season, we have and that makes all the difference in the world."

The junior Kimble finished with 11 points and another junior, Gavin Snider, hit for a team-high 12. Gunter finished with eight points, Hennes scored five and Grant Snider had four.

"All year long, these kids have put out for me," noted Herra. "They have worked hard and have started doing the things I have asked them to do. You can not win if you don't believe what the coaches are saying, but these kids do and this is what has happened."



The Cats' Dusty Sorensen (10) flies high for a bucket against Andover Central

Final Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION I

LEAGUE OVERALL

Team	W	L	W	L
x-Maize	11	4	18	2
Augusta	9	3	15	5
Buhler	8	4	12	8
Rose Hill	4	8	10	11
Mulvane	4	8	7	14
Goddard	4	8	4	16
Valley Center	2	10	3	17

DIVISION II

y-Andover	9	3	17	4
y-Andover Central	9	3	17	4
Kingman	8	4	15	6
Andale	7	5	15	6
Clearwater	6	6	9	12
Circle	2	10	7	14
Wellington	1	11	2	19

x-clinched CTL championship; y-tied for CTL championship