

El Dorado Ends Season

Wildcat Boys Scrap To End

The Mulvane High School boys basketballers earned their badge of courage as the dismal season came to a close Friday night, March 2, in the opening round of the Campus Class 5A Sub-State Tournament.

The boys went out kicking and scratching, not like you would expect of an 0-21 ball club. El Dorado was the final executioner as the El Dorado Wildcats hammered Mulvane, 63-38. El Dorado went on to clip Kapaun Mt. Carmel, 62-60, in the championship game Saturday, Feb. 3, to earn a trip to the 5A State Championship and will meet Kansas City Harmon (14-5) at 3 p.m. today (March 8) in the first game of the 5A state shootout at the Expocentre in Topeka.

The loss closed out the saddest chapter in MHS basketball history from a record standpoint. Mulvane's 0-21 record marked the first time the Wildcats have gone through the season winless.

"These kids aren't 0-21 with me," said Coach Charlie Mason. "They could have put in their time and got the ball game over but our kids were playing as hard in the last minute as in the first minute. Everybody's going to be talking about these kids going 0-21 but I'll tell you one thing, they have a world of heart."

However, heart couldn't win a game this season and especially not against the Ark Valley Wildcats, who inched ahead each quarter and kept stretching it out to run their record to 14-8. Mulvane simply didn't have the material to compete this season and was "luckless" in the three opportunities to win, losing the three by a total of five points, each on last second shots.

The MHS Wildcats gave a good accounting of themselves anyway Friday night as they set out to post their first win. "I really thought we could beat them," emphasized Mason. "They had everything to lose and we had nothing to lose. We went into the game doing the only thing we could and we achieved half of our goal. We wanted to stop (6-foot, 8-inch) Bengie West and we wanted to stop Aaron Duryea. We wanted to make the other three people beat us. We stopped West but Duryea proved to be a much better shooter than I thought he was. We gave them some cheap baskets off the press that hurt, too."

What the Cats had hoped to do was surround West with three players and hound Duryea, giving the other three players a free run. West was reduced to an average player, hitting a season low two points but Duryea

Campus 5A Boys Sub-State Results

Championship

El Dorado 62, Kapaun Mt. Carmel 60

Semifinals

Mulvane 5, 11, 12, 10, 38

El Dorado 10, 21, 27, 25, 63

Mulvane: Bill Herrington 7, Jeff Sisco 12, Todd Hedstrom 2, Todd Butcher 4, Curtis Norden 4, Jarrod Oldridge 3, Gary Cleverdon 6, FG 14-43 (1), FT 9-18, F 14

El Dorado: Aaron Duryea 23, Bengie West 2, Kirk Jig 14, Mike McBride 6, William Arnold 2, Jeff Stewart 3, Travis Overley 4, Dusty Rudice 5, Chad Morgan 2, Tim Roberts 2, FG 23-46 (3), FT 14-15, F 17

Kapaun Mt. Carmel: 61, Campus 5A



MHS's Jeff Sisco (at left), Gary Cleverdon (41), Bill Harrington (45), Todd Hedstrom (33) surround ball in season finale

scored 23 points to pace the victory.

"It was a defense we had used two years ago when we played Chris Hickman at Clearwater," said Mason. "They had only two players who could hurt us and we let the other three go and just tried to adjust to what they did. West was frustrated the whole time. He touched the ball four times and got one basket and three rebounds. They put their other people right where we thought they would and sometimes we adjusted to it and sometimes we didn't.

"The game play was followed, but the differences in personnel was the difference in the outcome of the ball game," added Mason. "We did what we did to try and win the ball game but we gave Duryea too many points. If we could have held him down more, we might have been in there. I have to give him credit, though. He's a much better stationary shooter than I gave him credit for because several times Todd Hedstrom was hanging all over him and he still made it. We made a gallant try and did the best we could, and that's the bottom line."

Mulvane's biggest problem all season, lack of a consistent scoring punch, was evident Friday night in a big way. Jeff Sisco, a 6-6 senior, had one of his best games, scoring 12 points going against West inside

Junior Bill Herrington was next with seven points and sophomore Gary Cleverdon scored six points. Top scorer Curtis Norden, a senior, closed out his MHS cage career with four points, as did guard Todd Butcher.

"I thought everybody did a good job on West, but Sisco came ready to play," said Mason. "He really stood out offensively and

had one of his best games. Cleverdon also played well."

The end may have brought a sigh of relief for MHS fans but Mason, who watched his 11-year record at Mulvane sink to 118-123, was not glad it was over. "I'm never glad it's over," he said. "I just wish we could have gotten a 'W' for these kids. They lost in all kinds of ways this year."