

Cat Boys Blasted Out Early

There was no quick slip into a telephone booth to change from a mild-mannered reporter. There was no quick burst of points. There was no rally with fists slamming into the air in a display of emotion.

For the most part, Mulvane's foray Thursday night, March 3, in the opening round of the Class 5A Sub-State Basketball Tournament at Arkansas City was like a man going to work after being on the job for 25 years.

Although favored, the Wildcats put up little fight before putting the equipment away for another season, as Winfield ambushed MHS, 64-47. It was only the second victory of the year for Winfield. Two nights later, Coffeyville clipped Winfield, easily to advance to the Class 5A State Tournament at Emporia.

Coach Charlie Mason's Cats ended their season with an 8-12 record and sobering thoughts of expecting much better.

ARK CITY CLASS 5A SUB-STATE Semifinals

Mulvane	8 17 6 16-47
Winfield	14 18 8 24-64
Mulvane—Todd Travis 10, Kevin Bell 10, David Belew 18, Lonny Travis 9, J.C. Shook 0. FG 19-58, FT 9-15, F 13.	
Winfield—Greg Woods 2, Brad Stevenson 4, Delbert Perry 8, Kelly Anderson 12, Robert Soto 14, Mark Drennan 2, Graham Frazier 13, Larry Bruce 9. FG 29-51, FT 8-14, F 17.	

"When it comes to playoff time, everybody goes in 0-0 and Winfield had nothing to lose," said Mason. "We were kind of like walking on eggs all night. I don't know if we put too much pressure on ourselves or what, but we didn't play a very good ball game. And the critical factor was that we never did make a run at 'em. They came out hungry and took it to us."

The Vikings took an early lead, then stretched it into a commanding lead early in the fourth quarter. Behind by a 32-25 count at intermission, Mulvane could have made hay in the third

quarter when the Vikings had troubles and scored only eight points. The Cats lost ground, however.

"I thought we would make a run at them in the third quarter, they tried to give us everything in the book, but we just didn't make a run at 'em," said Mason. "Maybe everybody was looking for the next guy to start that run and it never occurred."

One reason was poor shot selection which led the Cats on a 32-percent evening from the field (19 of 58). Another reason was that Winfield was more aggressive, both on offense and defense. And a third factor was that the Wildcats never could solve the problem of 6-foot-7 sophomore Graham Frazier inside. He finished 10 rebounds and 13 points, teaming with 6-1 Larry Bruce to take a 38-29 rebounding edge for Winfield.

"When you're 1-18 you don't worry about losing another game," said Mason. "They played, without a doubt, their best game of the year. They're coach even said so. It's sad to have to put up the equipment on a game like that."

If there was one bright spot it was the fact that the Wildcats could field that same team next year with another year of experience. Mason went with three junior and two sophomores in the starting line-up.

Sophomore guard David Belew continued his offensive surge with a game-high 18 points. Six-four junior Todd

Travis finished with 10 points and had seven rebounds. Junior guard Kevin Bell finished with 10 points and seven boards. Sophomore Lonny Travis finished with nine points and a team-high nine rebounds.