

Early Swoon Seals Cats' Tourney Fate

An old nemesis continued to make things uncomfortable for Mulvane and the basketball season screeched to an end under a hail of first and third quarter points Thursday night, March 4, as Valley Center eliminated Mulvane, 67-55, in the semifinal round of the Circle Class 4A Boys Sub-State Tournament.

The loss ended the season for Coach Charlie Mason's Wildcats at 10-11. In the Chisholm Trail League, the boys finished in a three-way tie for third with Wellington and Valley, all sporting 4-6 loop records.

The Hornets were eliminated two days later by Rose Hill as the Rockets qualified for the Class 4A State Tournament at Salina.

Against Valley Center, the Wildcats were never able to take charge and thus never ahead. Valley rolled out to an 18-10 lead after one period and were ahead by double figures much of the game.

"Every time we looked like we were going to make a run at them, they made a basket," stressed Mason, who made his third season as the Cat skipper his most successful. "We cut it to seven and got the steal in the fourth quarter but we didn't make the bucket. Instead of being down five (points), we went back to nine down."

Senior Bud Higgs spearheaded the Valley Center offense as the Hornets whipped the Wildcats for the 5th consecutive time dating back two seasons--three of those losses coming this year. Higgs finished with 26 points but it was his scoring and out-right steals in the first half which lifted Valley to such a commanding position.

"I thought they (the Hornets) did an excellent job taking some of our offense

CIRCLE CLASS 4A SUB-STATE Semifinals

Valley Center 18 10 17 22--67
Mulvane 10 14 10 21--55
Valley Center--Kenny Hinds 3, Steve Taylor 14, Rod Tormey 4, Rob Williams 8, Bud Higgs 26, Brian Lesperance 2, Joe Witham 2, David Kingsbury 8. FG 24-50, FT 19-29, F 25.
Mulvane--Dale Landes 20, Tim Warren 21, Vic Marcelle 4, David Hagerman 4, Kevin Bell 3, Allen Whitmer 3. FG 17-54, FT 21-31, F 21.

away," complained Mason. "They just played good denial pressure defense and instead of moving like we should have, we stood around and they got the steals."

The Hornets must have made six passing thefts in the first half alone.

"We didn't come out very strong, real tight," said Mason. "I thought we would come out loose but we didn't. We didn't execute and the shots that had been falling earlier weren't in this game."

The Cat coached singled out the early thefts which put Mulvane in a hole. "We just weren't moving," claimed Mason. "Many of the passes were going to somebody but we stood there waiting on the ball and Valley Center went after it. Many of their steals would have been fouls had we been going to meet the ball."

Another critical factor was the defensive job Higgs did on Mulvane senior Vic Marcelle, who had been in double figures most every game during the month of February. Marcelle was held to only four points.

"Going into the game, we wanted to seal off the inside because the two previous games, we felt they hurt us inside," pointed out Mason. "We did a good job there. We stopped their big guys with only 11 points. Their outside shooters hurt us, though."

Free throwing also played a key roll as

the Cats missed eight free shots in the final period, including three one-and-ones. Ironically, Mulvane had missed only one going into the final eight minutes. Valley Center made 14 free throws in the quarter.

On the boards, Mulvane held its own, as Valley took a 43-37 edge there. Senior Tim Warren pulled down 14 caroms, junior pivot David Hagerman had 11.

Warren closed out a stellar prep cage career by dropping in 21 points. Guard Dale Landes added 20 points. The 6-foot-5 Hagerman and Marcelle had four each. Sophomore Kevin Bell and junior Allen Whitmer finished with three points each.

FINAL CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x-Buhler	8	2	14	6
Goddard	7	3	12	8
Mulvane	4	6	10	11
Valley Center	4	6	11	11
Wellington	4	6	8	12
Augusta	3	7	5	15
x--won division championship				
Division II				
x-Chaparral	7	1	17	4
a-Rose Hill	6	2	17	5
Andale	5	3	10	10
Maize	5	3	7	13
Circle	4	4	8	11
Clearwater	3	5	6	14
Kingman	3	5	9	12
Haven	2	6	5	13
Andover	0	8	6	14
x--won division championship				
a--in Class 4A State Tournament				