

Hot Eagles Get Hotter-- Is That Possible? Kingman Snuffs Out Wildcat State Hopes

As the upbeat music blared in the background, the voice of Dick Vitale blared his familiar phrase over the Mulvane High School gym's public address system: "It's showtime, Baby!"

And indeed it was. But only Kingman answered the challenge when the curtain went up Friday night, March 6, in a sub-state semifinal match-up against the host Mulvane Wildcat boys.

What is it with Kingman? Those who said Kingman couldn't do it three times were right. They didn't...The Eagles did it better.

The Eagles, who used Mulvane's basketball boys as a punching bag all season long, finally ending the Wildcats' season just when it looked like Coach Todd Barker's team had come back from the dead for a reason. Kingman snuffed out the Wildcats' state tournament hopes Friday night with a blistering response, 75-46, over the Cats.

The next night, Kingman punched its own state tournament ticket by knocking out Pratt, 45-39, in the boys championship game

of the Mulvane Class 4A Sub-State Saturday night, March 7. The Eagles played a sloppy game but still prevailed against Pratt to advance into the Class 4A State Tournament where the Eagles (16-7) will run up against Sabetha (16-7) in a first round game at 8:45 p.m. tonight (March 12).

Yes, indeed, it was showtime. Kingman grabbed for the momentum early in a game that wasn't as close as the score indicated. Mulvane was never in it.

Mulvane puts its basketball gear away with an 11-11 record overall and three of those losses came against Kingman, and each time, the Eagles hit better from the field than the last one. Back in December, the Eagles roasted Mulvane, 66-46, shooting 60% from the field. In February, the Eagles romped past MHS using a late run and a 65% field mark. Friday night, Kingman hit 72% from the field (two-point) and made it look easy.

"They lit it up again," confessed Barker. "I can't explain it. If I could, I would have

changed something. They didn't shoot like that Saturday night in the championship game. They only shot 38% in the first round against Chaparral. We tried to do some things special for them, but it didn't help. They still shot it in."

The disappointing loss came on the heels of something of a revival by the Wildcats. They were coming into the semifinal contest against Kingman after toppling Chisholm Trail League champion Circle, 42-40, in the final game of the regular season, then had rallied in the last nine seconds with two clutch three-point to tie Wellington in Tuesday's semifinal before winning in overtime.

Those feats didn't impress Kingman, though. The Eagles romped out to an early 10-point lead and it was never closer. By intermission, Kingman held a 43-18 lead on the strength of a 27-12 rush in the second quarter.

"We went into the game feeling like we needed to keep their shooting cooled down," said Barker. "We also wanted to limit their shots at the hole and we wanted to do a better job of rebounding. Those were our three keys, but we didn't do any of them. And we didn't shoot the ball well. We didn't cool their shooting down and they over-rebounded us. Sometimes you can overcome things when your keys to win go up in flames but not often."

The Wildcat coach said the senior-dominated Cats tried to make some adjustments going into the game. "We changed some assignments after watching and seeing what they were trying to do but their personnel just matched up so well against us. They took advantage of those match-ups. Their guards are a little bigger than our guards and they were more physical inside than we were."

"You could see what they were trying to do. They wanted to go to the Armour kid and the Fischer kid and on defense they were intent on shutting down Bryce (Schumacher) and Darrin (Erbert). They put someone on Bryce that was three or four inches taller than him and tried to keep him from touching the ball. With Darrin, they took away his dribble penetration and had someone in Darrin's face all night and they did a good job of it."

The two seniors had been Mulvane's big offensive guns all season long but the powder was wet Friday night. Erbert closed out his prep career with a team-high 10 points and Schumacher, who had been the Cats' clutch three-point shooter all season long, was held to only three points. Senior Dan McElroy finished with nine points, 6-9 senior Rob Parker scored eight and senior Chad Gerwick hit four points.

But that wasn't near enough against a hot Kingman squad. The Eagles even got excellent help from their bench, which out-scored Mulvane's whole team in the first half.

"They just have a lot of confidence coming in against us," admitted Barker. "We thought they might overlook us because Pratt had beaten them by 14 points the last time those two teams met. But Coach (Tim) Swartzendruber did a nice job getting them prepared for us."

"We went into the game thinking their

Mulvane Class 4A Boys Sub-State Results CHAMPIONSHIP

Kingman 45, Pratt 39

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 6 12 10 18-46
Kingman 16 27 12 20-75
Mulvane—Dan McElroy 9, Rob Parker 8, Bryce Schumacher 3, Darrin Erbert 10, Chad Gerwick 4, Clint Cox 3, Keene Hargrove 3, Ryan Rogers 3, Jesse Marksberry 2, Sean Holman 2. FG 19-55 (3), FT 5-10, F 19.

Kingman—Nick Armour 13, Dallas Hageman 13, Kevin Fischer 15, Jon Self 7, Joey Knapic 8, Jake Graber 8, Adam Hook 1, Scott Woodward 6, Jordan White 4. FG 29-44 (3), FT 14-20, F 19.

Pratt 61, Douglass 60

FIRST ROUND RESULTS

Mulvane 60, Wellington 56 (OT)

Kingman 80, Chaparral 42

Pratt 67, Clearwater 50

Douglass 59, Rose Hill 50

was no way they were going to shoot 65% against us from the field again, but they sure did," added Barker. "I almost would have bet the farm that they couldn't have done it again but they proved me wrong."

It didn't help that the Wildcats hit only 35% from the field, 19 out of 55. "We couldn't hit anything and I was disappointed in that," said Barker. "That did enable them to get a pretty big lead by halftime. We talked it over and didn't want to panic after the first quarter. We have been down before and we just told the kids to try and get a little bit of it back at a time. At halftime, we decided to try to go for the three a little more in the second half to try to get back in the game but they just played their defense a little farther out. Nothing seemed to work for us."

It's hard to put a "smiley face" on Mulvane's shooting. The Cats hit only 16% from three-point land, 3-for-19. That figure dragged Mulvane down overall in the shooting department. From inside the line, Mulvane hit 46% (16-for-35) but add in the three-point shooting and it comes out to 35%. Kingman, meanwhile hit 26 of 36 of its two-point attempts and finished 29 of 44 for 66% overall.

"We gave it our best shot but they played really well again," said Barker. "We wanted to go on. We did a lot of things that were successful this season, and we were coming in hot. We won our last four games. The game against Wellington was tough but I didn't think we were worn out by the overtime game. I don't think it impacted this game at all. I was just hoping we would carry that momentum into the game against Kingman and it just didn't happen."

It also would have been nice to win the first sub-state in the new MHS gym, but that didn't happen either. Instead, it was showtime for Kingman.

Final League BB Standings

Chisholm Trail Final Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
xz-Circle	11	1	21	2
z-Kingman	9	3	16	7
Andale	7	5	12	9
Rose Hill	6	6	8	13
Mulvane	5	7	11	11
Clearwater	2	10	6	15
Chaparral	2	10	5	16

DIVISION I

yz-Andover	11	1	19	3
yz-Buhler	11	1	19	3
Goddard	5	7	9	12
Augusta	4	8	11	11
Maize	4	8	8	13
Valley Center	4	8	5	16
Wellington	3	9	5	16

x--won CTL championship; y--tied for CTL championship; z--State qualifiers

Chisholm Trail Final Girls Basketball Standings

DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
xz-Andale	11	1	19	4
z-Clearwater	10	2	21	2
Rose Hill	6	6	15	8
Circle	6	6	13	9
Kingman	4	8	9	13
Mulvane	3	9	6	15
Chaparral	0	12	1	21

DIVISION I

xz-Maize	12	0	21	1
Goddard	10	2	15	7
z-Andover	7	5	14	8
Valley Center	6	6	10	11
Buhler	4	8	11	10
Wellington	2	10	6	16
Augusta	1	11	6	16

x--won CTL championship; z--State qualifiers