

Defense Collapses; Wildcats Bow

All along, Mulvane High School head basketball coach Roger Pock has been preaching defense. Apparently, nobody's been listening.

Pock watched and moaned Tuesday night, Dec. 5, as the Wildcat defense cracked and crumbled all over the place as Mulvane opened the 1978-79 high school basketball season on a losing note. Playing at Cheney, the Bulldogs registered an 83-62 victory over Mulvane.

"Like I told you at the beginning, our defense is going to have to carry us," stressed Pock. "Tuesday night, it was horrible. We broke down. We didn't go through the screens, we didn't cut them off, we had an entire malfunction on defense."

Heck, the East Coast blackout several years ago was nothing in comparison to the Cats' blackout at Cheney. "We just didn't think defense, we didn't THINK defense," said Pock. "We ran a man-to-man, then went to a zone and they hit from outside, so we went right back to our man. We played a pressure defense, but a pressure defense doesn't do any good when you don't have any defense."

Cheney broke out quickly against Mulvane, scoring 28 points in the first period to grab a 14-point lead. Forward Steve Scheer scored 12 of his game-high 20 points in that quarter for the winners. And when the Cats went into their zone, Brian and Mark Bohm bombed from the perimeter.

The poor defensive showing overshadowed an otherwise good effort. The Wildcats made only 10 turnovers and out-rebounded Cheney, one of the top-rated teams in the state in Class 3A, 33-20 as junior jumper Mark Smith pulled down 11 rebounds and senior Courtney Gammon added 10.

"Offensively, we had a great game," said Pock. "We went inside. We hit the offensive boards. We looked good offensively."

Guard Tom Fagan and Gammon shared scoring honors in the season opener, each scoring 16 points and the junior Smith added 11 points.

Another factor was Cheney's 27-for-32 effort at the free throw line. Mulvane

made eight of its nine attempts.

Disappointed? "You ain't kidding," declared Pock. "I really thought our kids would go out there and stick it to 'em and we didn't. I think the kids realize they didn't do it defensively,

too."

Pock's Cats will get only two days to regroup before meeting power-laden Goddard Friday night, Dec. 8, at Goddard in the Chisholm Trail League opener for both schools.

Mulvane 14 17 16 15 -- 62
Cheney 28 18 22 15 -- 83

Mulvane -- Tom Fagan 16, Mark Smith 11, Gary Fortner 8, Troy Wayman 3, Courtney Gammon 16, Grant Sorensen 4, Troy Phillips 2, Lon Pribbie 2. FG 27-64, FT 8-9, F 23

Cheney -- Brian Bohm 20, Mark Bohm 12, Jerry Kill 6, David Krenzel 6, Steve Scheer 20, Roger Holt 8, John Ewing 9, Scott Lehner 2. FG 28-58, FT 27-32, F 1

B-Team -- Mulvane 63, Cheney 54