

Basketball 'Doesn't Fit' In MHS Boys' First Game

Forgive the Mulvane boys basketball team if they look at the rims at Circle High School with a weary eye. The players are sure there is something wrong with them because the basketballs they shot just would not seem to fit.

A poor shooting night led to Mulvane's downfall in their 68-40 loss to Ark City in the opening round of the Thunderbird Classic in Towanda.

Two numbers stuck out in the statistics, the Wildcats shot 29% from the field and 36% at the free-throw line.

"We were not running the offense and forcing some shots late," Head Coach Dale Landes said. "We have kids who can shoot from the outside, but the shots were not falling."

Jeremy Brown hit a 12-foot jump shot to stop a 7-0 run from Ark City to start the game. A Tim Glaser jumper and a Jeff Parker alley-oop from Glaser pulled the Wildcats to within three points midway through the first quarter.

The Bulldogs pulled away for the rest of the quarter, pounding the ball inside for short baskets.

"Our game plan was to force them to shoot from the outside, but we didn't keep it out of the post," Landes said.

The Wildcats scored the first five points of the second quarter on a three-pointer by Brown and an inside hook shot from Dexter Carpenter. That pulled Mulvane within four points. However, Ark City went on a 17-4 run at the end of the first half to take a 35-18 halftime lead.

The Wildcats were unable to penetrate the zone of the Bulldogs and could not get to the boards.

"At times, we penetrated to the middle too much instead of the open lanes to the outside," Landes said. "Plus, the passing to the post was not sharp, we were lofting passes."

The rebounding was a problem for the entire contest. Ark City finished the game with 45 rebounds compared to Mulvane's 25.

"We were not aggressive going to the boards and their post people were quicker to the ball," Landes said.

A big reason for the Wildcats stalling offense was the absence of junior Michael Abasolo. Early foul trouble sidelined Abasolo for much of the first half and he finished the game with only two points.

"With him having to sit down, it hurt our offense," Landes said. "When Mike goes out, we didn't have someone to turn to when we needed to score. Someone will have to step up in that situation."

In the third quarter, Mulvane held their own against the Bulldogs. The major problem was easy layups by Ark City off of Mulvane's man-to-man press.

"Our rotation from our back people was not there," Landes said. "The front guys were working hard but the back guys were losing their men."

Mulvane outscored Ark City in the final quarter. A big reason why was Tad Nicholson, who came off the bench to score all five of his points in the fourth quarter.

There were some positive points to the game. Dexter Carpenter played aggressively on his way to racking up 10 points and eight rebounds.

"Dexter could have done even more, he was leaving his baby hook just short," Landes said.

Landes was also able to get a lot of playing time for his bench players. Tom Nienke sunk two three-pointers. Brad Canfield and Tim Glaser also showed promise in their stints in the game.

"I think Tim can do things offensively, he was getting some good looks at the basket," Landes said. "Brad looked good, but

Circle Thunderbird Boys Classic Results

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	9	9	8	14-40
Arkansas City	18	17	12	21-68

Mulvane—Dexter Carpenter 10, Jeremy Brown 5, Tom Nienke 5, Matt Hendren 3, Jeff Parker 4, Brad Canfield 2, Tad Nicholson 5, Tim Glaser 4, Michael Abasolo 2. FG 13 (2), FT 8-22, F 17.

Arkansas City—J. Swartz 13, Wyssman 17, Brantley 6, Brown 9, Barnett 6, Terrill 4, B Schwartz 3, Young 2, Hocker 2, Watson 2, McDonald 4. FG 31 (0), FT 6-11, F 21.

Wellington 65, El Dorado 64
Circle 75, Andover 57
Independence 64, Sunrise 42

Classic Pairings

TONIGHT (DEC. 8)

Game 5 — Mulvane vs. Andover, Gym No. 2, 6:15
Game 6 — Independence vs. Wellington, No. 1, 6:15
Game 7 — Sunrise Christian vs. El Dorado, No. 2, 8
Game 8 — Arkansas City vs. Circle, No. 1, 8

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of games 5 and 7, Gym No. 1 11:30 a.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 7, No. 1, 1:15 p.m.

Game 11 (Third Place)—losers of games 6 and 8, No. 1, 5

Game 12 (Championship)—winners of games 6 and 8, No. 1, 9

he backed off a little from their big men. I told him I don't ever want to see that again.

"But, I want to see kids jump off of that bench and contribute."

Mulvane handled the ball pretty well, with only 13 turnovers for the game. They forced 21 turnovers by the Bulldogs.

"I was happy with having so few turnovers," Landes said.

The problem at the free throw line mystified Landes.

"We have been shooting free throws really well in practice and I thought it was something I wouldn't really have to worry about," Landes said.

Many problems that can be fixed became apparent in the course of the game. Shooting, first of all.

"We can get better hopefully, we shot better in practice," Landes said. "If we start making shots from the outside, it would have pulled them out from their zone."

Landes did not sugarcoat the effort to his players, though.

"I told them we got beat at every facet of the game and that should not happen again," Landes said.

The Wildcats will next take on Andover in the losers bracket of the Thunderbird Classic. The game will be played tonight (Dec. 8) at 6:15 p.m.

Landes says it will be an important game for his team.

"It is a big game because they like to run people like we do and push the ball," Landes said. "They check in two or three people at every whistle so it will be a test."

They will also play Saturday, Dec. 10 in the tournament. Their game time will be 1:15 p.m. if they beat the Trojans or 11:30 a.m. if they lose.