

# Sagging Offense Bogs Down MHS Boys

The Mulvane High School boys offense continued to sag like a big sack of toys on Santa's back Tuesday, Dec. 8, as Coach Dale Landes' Wildcats were downed for the second straight game.

Playing at Rose Hill, the Cats were out of the game almost before it started as the Rockets blasted out to a 17-4 lead in the opening quarter. By intermission, it was 36-13.

"We played pathetically," said Landes. "They were a superior basketball team and we didn't meet the challenge. Right now, we're just not a very good basketball team. Early when the game was on the line, our shooting was pretty bad and that set the tone for the rest of the game."

The 0-2 Wildcats went cold after taking a 4-2 lead in the opening moments. Rose Hill, which boosted its record to 2-0, then reeled off 15 unanswered points.

One bright spot for the Cats was the play of junior reserve Dan Smith, who led the squad in scoring with 14 points. Junior Jason DeWald finished with 10 points and Jeremy Kendrick scored five.

In the junior varsity game, Rose Hill hammered the Cat jayvees, 50-34. Top scorers in that game for MHS were Jeff Parker with 12 points, Shay Vangas with nine and Tom Nienke with seven.

The Rose Hill sophomores made it a clean sweep as they downed the Wildcat sophs, 36-30. Nienke had 10 points, Martin Dody scored nine and David Butler had five for the Mulvane sophs.

There's nothing like making a big splash in your first game, but new Mulvane High School boys basketball coach Dale Landes had to settle for a bitter-sweet showing as Buhler spoiled his coming-out party Friday night, Dec. 4, in the MHS gym.

The visiting Crusaders throttled the Wildcats in the second half for a 66-40 victory in a Chisholm Trail League game. It also was the first for Mulvane in Landes' "watch." Landes replaced long-time MHS coach Charlie Mason after last season, Mason's 13th.

For a half, it looked like Landes was going to launch his varsity coaching career with a win. Buhler jumped ahead by seven points in the first quarter and the two teams battled evenly in the second, giving Buhler a 31-24 lead at halftime. But in the second half, the Crusaders came on strong, especially in the final quarter when they out-gunned the Cats, 21-10.

"We really played well the first 19 min-

utes of the ball game," said Landes, a former assistant under Mason. "The first half and three minutes of the 3rd quarter we were in the ball game. We got within five points, but then we came down eight consecutive times without scoring and that really hurt us. We suddenly were down 15 points. The whole game was downhill after that."

The cold spell put a chill on Mulvane's hopes of starting the season with a victory for the first time since the 1986-87 season, the last of the "glory years" for Mulvane. That year the team finished 20-6 and 3rd at the 4A state tournament after laboring past Andale, 66-63, in the season opener. Instead, Landes had to settle for a 6th straight loss on opening day.

"Buhler is a very good basketball team, but I felt like we played with them for most of the game," said Landes. "Our intensity was high most of the way and we played well, but for about six-to-eight minutes. We broke down and the game got away from us."

Landes said what happened is the Cats tried to rush their offense instead of letting things happen. "We rushed on offense," said Landes. "We got some easy baskets early in the second half to get within five, but then we got impatient. We're not a team that can hurry up and when we do hurry, those things are going to hurt us."

Reserve center Dan Smith headed an eight-player contingent in the scoring column, bringing promises of good depth this season for Mulvane. He scored 10 points. J.J. Dunn, the top scorer returning from last season's 3-18 team, scored six points as did senior Brian Heinrichs. Senior guard Brian Strack had five points and so did 6-foot, 4-inch junior Jason DeWald, who started inside for Landes.

"Brian Heinrichs didn't have a good shooting night but defensively, he did a super job, and Steve Nelson had a fine game for us at point guard. He had seven assists and really controlled things well."

Landes believes this squad can play in the Chisholm Trail and also compete. Convincing the Wildcat players is one of his biggest chores. "Overall, it was the little things that hurt us," said Landes. "It was just too much to overcome. These kids have to understand that they are capable of playing Chisholm Trail League basketball. They have to believe it every night out on the court."

Buhler also pounded the Wildcats in the junior varsity and sophomore games. The Crusader jayvees exploded past the MHS jayvees, 51-34, bouncing out to a 21-6 lead after one period. And in the sophomore game, the Crusaders rolled out to a 25-5 lead after one quarter on their way to a 64-29 triumph.

Top scorers for the Mulvane jayvees were Shay Vangas and Josh Lachina, both with eight points, and Jeff Parker with seven.

The sophomore Cats were paced by Rick Maxwell's nine points and eight by newcomer Tom Nienke.

Mulvane will be in the Circle Thunderbird Boys Classic next week. Mulvane will be playing in Pool No. 1 in the six-team tourney. Tuesday, Dec. 15, Mulvane will play Circle at 8 p.m. and on Thursday, Dec. 17, Mulvane will meet Independence at 6:15.

The final round of the meet will be Saturday, Dec. 19. The teams with the best record in each pool will play at 8 p.m. for the championship. The No. 2 teams will play at 6:30 and the No. 3 teams will play at 5.

## Varsity Boys

|           |    |    |    |       |
|-----------|----|----|----|-------|
| Mulvane   | 4  | 9  | 14 | 14-41 |
| Rose Hill | 17 | 19 | 17 | 16-69 |

Mulvane—Larry Dixon 2, Jeremy Kendrick 5, Brian Heinrichs 4, J.J. Dunn 2, Brian Strack 4, Dan Smith 14, Jason DeWald 10. FG 19-44 (2), FT 1-6, F 15.

Rose Hill—Brette Tanner 7, Tim Cline 8, Ryan Nelson 15, Jason Landers 4, David Ruark 2, Jeff Landers 6, Chris Coonrod 2, Aaron Krueger 4, John Reeves 1, Clayton Dye 13, Erik Landon 7. FG 28-41 (1), FT 12-20, F 18.

## Junior Varsity Boys

|           |    |    |    |       |
|-----------|----|----|----|-------|
| Mulvane   | 6  | 13 | 10 | 5-34  |
| Rose Hill | 11 | 17 | 8  | 14-50 |

Mulvane—Chris Heersche 4, Jeff Parker 12, Shay Vangas 9, Tom Nienke 7, Martin Dody 2. FG 11 (0), FT 12-16, F 18.

Rose Hill—Nick Nelson 3, Jeff Landers 4, David Ruark 9, Jason Landers 2, Craig Hughs 2, Aaron Krueger 11, Kevin Mohr 2, John Reeves 3, Clinton Abraham 4, Eric Moss 8, Ryan Perry 2. FG 18 (1), FT 13-16, F 20.

## Sophomore Boys

|           |   |    |    |       |
|-----------|---|----|----|-------|
| Mulvane   | 5 | 10 | 3  | 12-30 |
| Rose Hill | 8 | 8  | 12 | 8-36  |

Mulvane—Kevin Butler 5, Martin Dody 9, Todd Nienke 10, Dexter Carpenter 4, Casey Mills 2. FG 11 (0), FT 8-12, F 14.

Rose Hill—Nick Grunden 2, David Mohr 2, Nick Nelson 6, Jeff Jackson 12, Adam Martin 4, Creighton Snellenberg 2, Jesse Hoberman 2, David Jones 6. FG 12 (2), FT 6-15, F 17.

## Varsity Boys

|         |    |    |    |       |
|---------|----|----|----|-------|
| Buhler  | 16 | 15 | 14 | 21-66 |
| Mulvane | 9  | 15 | 6  | 10-40 |

Buhler—Matt Hebb 17, Casey Henning 14, Max Heinlein 5, Cleve Roberts 4, John Morris 6, Matt Yoder 2, Chad Fleming 10, Ryan Friesen 8. FG 27-62 (2), FT 10-22, F 17.

Mulvane—Dan Smith 10, J.J. Dunn 6, Brian Strack 5, Brian Heinrichs 6, Steve Nelson 4, Jason DeWald 5, Larry Dixon 2, Jeremy Kendrick 2. FG 18-48 (1), FT 3-6, F 22.

## Junior Varsity Boys

|         |    |   |    |       |
|---------|----|---|----|-------|
| Buhler  | 21 | 8 | 15 | 7-51  |
| Mulvane | 6  | 9 | 9  | 10-34 |

Buhler—Max Heinlein 11, Ian Mammings 10, Terry McDowell 9, Matt Meschke 3, Chad Weber 4, Jason Booker 2, Jake Schwartz 5, Cleve Roberts 2, Tom Preheim 3. FG 20 (1), FT 8-10, F 21.

Mulvane—Chris Heersche 5, Josh Lachina 8, Shay Vangas 8, Jeff Parker 7, Tom Nienke 3, Martin Dody 2. FG 15 (1), FT 3-7, F 18.

## Sophomore Boys

|         |    |    |    |       |
|---------|----|----|----|-------|
| Buhler  | 25 | 10 | 14 | 15-64 |
| Mulvane | 5  | 8  | 10 | 16-29 |

Buhler—Monte Cross 22, Ian Mammings 3, Brian Ballinger 10, Cory Chapin 2, Josh Thetford 8, Sam Brown 4, Gage Swanson 2, Jeff Lightcap 4, Ryan Parker 9. FG 24 (5), FT 11-20, F 28.

Mulvane—David Butler 3, Rick Maxwell 9, Tom Nienke 8, Kevin Diller 3, Martin Dody 2, Dexter Carpenter 2, Jerry Murphy 2. FG 9 (0), FT 11-25, F 17.