

Tourney Starts Tonight

# Cat Opener Gets Ugly

It was a stark contrast from a year ago when the run-and-gun was a fact of life.

The Mulvane High School boys started the 1998 basketball season trying to slow things down a bit Friday night, Dec. 4, at home against Goddard.

It worked for about three minutes but it was kind of like trying to hold a cup of water and run at the same time. It spilled out as the talented Lions roared off into the sunset, dealing Mulvane a 74-36 loss.

"We tried to keep things controlled early in the game and overall, except for shooting the ball poorly and turnovers, we did okay," said Coach Todd Barker, trying to start a season on a winning note for the second time in his five years. "We wanted to con-

trol the tempo of the game. That was the only way we could compete with them. We wanted to be patient and take good shots but when you use that kind of strategy, you have to make your shots and we didn't."

The Wildcats shot 38% from the floor Friday night and that enabled Goddard to start pulling away after a couple minutes of play. By the end of quarter No. 1, the Lions had a 15-6 lead and by half, it had grown to 31-16. "We had some good shots but we just didn't knock them down," added Barker.

Trying to beat the Lions, who are ranked in the top five in Class 5A polls, would have taken an extraordinary effort, but the Wildcats were simply not up to the task. And they definitely weren't up to the task after the

lone returning experience, junior Jesse Marksberry, was whistled for his second foul before the second minute of the game.

Take a seat!

That hurt. "Jesse represents our only real game experience and we need him in there," stressed Barker. "Getting into foul trouble that early kind of put a damper on his play and Jake (Wilkinson) fouled out late and that didn't help but by that time, the outcome wasn't a question."

If there was one concern that came out of the beating, it was about shooting. The only good size the Cats have is with several sophomore players, who, incidentally, saw plenty of action against the tall Lions. But to be competitive, the Wildcats will have to be shooters. "Shooting is worrying me, sure," said Barker. "We devote a lot of time in practice to shooting. When you don't have size, you have to shoot better than the other team. We didn't but we needed to."

The one bright spot, according to Barker, was the Mulvane effort on the boards in the first half. Another was the experience gained by the Cats' young sophomore trio of Ryan McKnight (6-4), Andy Hixson (6-3) and Chris Gerhardt (6-2). Before the season is out, they could play a big role in any success the Wildcats intend to have.

"We did get a lot of experience for a lot of kids," admitted Barker about Friday's outing. "We went into the game expecting and planning to get our sophomore size into the game. Size isn't a luxury that we've had in the past and we don't have it this year in the upper classes, so we have to develop it over the year.

"As far as the rebounding in the first half, we out-boarded them until the second half," said Barker. "Our kids did a good job. In the second half, they shot better and started going to the boards better. Once the game got opened up, it got out-of-hand. The 4th quarter really hurt us. I think we became fatigued and they started really putting things away." Mulvane's top rebounder was Randy Johnson with six rebounds, Marksberry had four and McColpin had three boards.

The Lions were leading by 50-27 at the third quarter break, then out-gunned the Cats, 24-9, in the final eight minutes.

Mulvane's top scorer was Marksberry, who was the only player in double figures. He had 10. Guard Brian Dinkel scored seven points, senior Randy Johnson had six, McKnight finished the game with four points

## Mulvane Round-Robin B-Ball Tournament Pairings

TONIGHT (DEC. 10)

### Gym I

6 p.m.—Mulvane girls vs. Oxford Girls  
8 — Mulvane boys vs. Oxford Boys

### Gym II

6 — Rose Hill boys vs. Douglass Boys  
8 — Rose Hill girls vs. Douglass girls

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

### Gym I

6 p.m.—Rose Hill girls vs. Mulvane girls  
8 — Rose Hill boys vs. Mulvane boys

### Gym II

6 — Oxford boys vs. Douglass boys  
8 — Oxford girls vs. Douglass girls

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

### Gym I

2 p.m.—Rose Hill girls vs. Oxford girls  
4 — Rose Hill boys vs. Oxford boys  
6 — Mulvane girls vs. Douglass girls  
8 — Mulvane boys vs. Douglass boys

and senior Brian McColpin scored three.

"I thought we accomplished some things, though," said Barker. "We found out we have some things to work on and we found out we have to get better. Our kids still have room for improvement but we fought them in the first half on the boards. There's no reason we can't do that the whole game."

The Wildcats will try to regroup in time for a good showing in their own tournament, which opens tonight (Dec. 10). The boys will meet Oxford in an 8 p.m. game tonight in the opening round of the Mulvane Round-Robin Tournament.

### Varsity Boys

Goddard	15	16	19	24-74
Mulvane	6	10	11	9-36

Goddard—Jeff Buchanan 12, Donnie Wallace 17, Tyler Beiter 9, Nathan Richards 4, Jacob Spence 3, Bob Schneider 3, Bryan Sullivan 4, Jeremy Sandell 9, Tommy Noonan 2, Clint Dayhuff 5, Jesus Bruno 4, Jason Heffel 2. FG 25 (5), FT 9-16, F 16.

Mulvane—Jesse Marksberry 10, Brian Dinkel 7, Randy Johnson 6, Jake Wilkinson 2, Brian McColpin 3, Ryan McKnight 4. FG 13 (1), FT 7-16, F 16.

### Junior Varsity boys

Goddard	20	17	4	10-51
Mulvane	4	12	10	8-34

Goddard—Bob Schneider 20, Jason Heffel 6, Tyler Beiter 4, Jacob Price 8, Dru Bryant 11, Jacob Spence 2. FG 22 (4), FT 3-9, F 21.

Mulvane—Chris Brannon 4, Jason Wilson 4, Chris Gerhardt 3, Jared Rice 9, Ryan McKnight 2, Jonathan Reed 1, Kyle McGuire 3, Andy Hixson 8. FG 14 (1), FT 5-19, F 16.