

Cat Boys Play 'Scrooge' Role In Two Season Opening Wins

It may be getting a little close to Christmas, but you couldn't find the Mulvane High School Wildcat boys "ho-ho-ho-ing" Tuesday night, Dec. 9, in their second outing of the season.

Maize was in Mulvane, for a non-league game and the Wildcats were nothing but trouble for Maize in a 77-47 drubbing. The victory ran Mulvane's record to 2-0. Maize dipped to 1-1.

The Wildcats, coached by Charlie Mason, had little trouble shifting into high gear against an Eagle team which was fresh from a handy 51-39 thrashing of Clearwater last Friday. Clearwater had been tabbed as the team to beat in the Chisholm Trail League Division II race. However, Maize was no match for the swarming Mulvane defense which pressured Maize into numerous turnovers as the Cats rolled out to a 16-10 lead after one quarter and coasted to a 37-22 halftime lead.

"We lit things up early, didn't we?" asked Mason. "We played well until we piled up the big lead, then we got careless and took chances trying to steal the ball. Still, we really put on a clinic in the first half. Now if we can keep playing with that intensity, at that level, we'd be looking good."

With five starters back in harness, Mason expects the offense to run smoothly, and that it did. With senior Todd Fox gunning in 10 points, the

Wildcats started pulling away early.

"We forced a number of turnovers in the first half and capitalized on many of them with our pressing style," added Mason. "We ran a clinic in that first half, though. That's what we can do. Sometimes those tactics work and sometimes they don't. We found out that we could pressure them and went to it. Going into the ball game, we weren't sure because we felt like they were quicker than Andale. As the game went on, we discovered that strategy could be very successful."

Mason also was pleased with a second-straight game where his board people-center Andrew Swayne and forwards Todd Fox and Morgan LeClair--got their share of rebounds. With a "short" line-up with the 6-foot, 3-inch Swayne being your "size," rebounding could prove to be the biggest factor of the year for Mulvane this season. The Wildcats' ability to at least hold their own may determine how good the season really is.

"We had another good rebounding game, I thought," said Mason. "Fox, Swayne, LeClair and even Kyle Steadman and Lyle Graybeal and Jeff Williams of the bench, they all came through on the boards."

"We had a good game plan and we stuck with it tonight. When you get

everything going like we had it going, things are going to happen, and we had things happening."

Fox led all scorers with 23 points and when he wasn't tossing in baskets, Swayne and LeClair were. Each finished with 10 points. Reserve Bryson Butts finished with a season-high nine points and Curtis Hicks scored eight points.

The Wildcat junior varsity also struck a happy note Tuesday night as they ripped Maize, 51-28, for the first victory for new chief Bruce Eitzen.

A second-half surge which saw Mulvane score 34 points to the Eagles' 16 keyed the victory.

Junior Shay Cornejo led all scorers with 15 points but he had plenty of help from Toby Butcher, who scored 13 points and Neal Hamilton, who also had 13. Sean Gillespie finished with his best night, six points.

The Cats rallied in the final quarter in spite of hitting only 10 of 18 free throws to clip Andale, 66-63, Friday night, Dec. 5, in the season opener at Andale.

Hicks scored 10 of his 16 points in the quarter as the Mulvane pressure defense started squeezing the Indians in the last period but reserve guard Jeff Williams' two free throws in the final moments iced the victory.

The MHS junior varsity opened with a defeat as the host Indians jumped ahead early and held on for a 62-54 decision. In the sophomore game, Andale racked up the Cats, 58-33.

With five starters returning, Andale didn't loom as much of a threat but the Wildcats were pushed to the limit before the Mulvane quickness superiority started to reveal itself in the final eight minutes as Mulvane spurred to a 22-16 edge in the quarter to pull it out.

Todd Fox led the scoring for the Wildcats with 20 points. Hicks followed with his 16 and senior Morgan LeClair scored 13 points. Center Andrew Swayne had nine points.

Andale jumped ahead by a 20-8 count in the first quarter and Mulvane couldn't catch up in the debut of new Mulvane junior varsity chief Bruce Eitzen. Shay Cornejo scored a game-high 20 points but he was the only Wildcat in double figures. Russell Norden and guard Neal Hamilton each had eight points.

For the sophomore boys, Jo Nordenadler, a foreign exchange student, topped the Mulvane scoring with seven points while Sean Gillespie scored six and Andrew Hodges, Larry Lambrecht, and Phillip Beehler had four points apiece.

The Wildcats will open their chase for the Chisholm Trail League championship Friday, Dec. 12, at home against Goddard. Last year, the Wildcats were third behind Buhler and Valley Center.

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE Friday, Dec. 12

Goddard at Mulvane
Rose Hill at Andover
Buhler at Augusta
Valley Center at Wellington
Nickerson at Andale
Chaparral at Malze
Kingman at Circle

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Buhler at Campus
Haven at Kingman

Next Week's Tournaments

At Malze Invitational--Mulvane, Valley Center, Andale, Maize
At Circle Thunderbird Classic--Andover, Circle, Augusta, Rose Hill
At Garden Plain Tournament--Chaparral, Goddard

Varsity Boys

Maize 10 12 10 15--47
Mulvane 16 21 18 22--77
Maize--Bill Baker 13, Paul Baxter 2, Kelly Cotton 8, Brett Kimber 2, John Bezdek 15, Darrin Swink 7. FG 20, FT 7-8, F 17.
Mulvane--Curtis Hicks 8, Kyle Steadman 4, Andrew Swayne 10, Morgan LeClair 10, Todd Fox 23, Shay Cornejo 5, Bryson Butts 9, Jeff Williams 4, Lyle Graybeal 2, Neal Hamilton 2. FG 32, FT 13-22, F 11.

Junior Varsity Boys

Maize 8 14 8 8--38
Mulvane 7 10 17 17--51
Maize--Eric Carver 3, Chris Schwiethale 6, Aaron Shunafona 12, David Brooks 11, Shane Reid 4, Jason Norris 2. FG 14, FT 10-16, F 14.
Mulvane--Shay Cornejo 15, Toby Butcher 13, Neal Hamilton 13, Curtis Norden 4, Sean Gillespie 6. FG 20, FT 11-17, F 15.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane 16 18 10 22--66
Andale 17 18 12 16--63
Mulvane--Todd Fox 20, Curtis Hicks 16, Morgan LeClair 13, Andrew Swayne 9, Kyle Steadman 3, Shay Cornejo 1, Jeff Williams 2, Lyle Graybeal 2. FG 24-66, FT 18-34, F 16.
Andale--Greg Doll 16, Phil Thunberg 14, James Lies 10, Scott Mannebach 4, Greg Smarsh 8, Eric Swenson 6, David Blasi 1, Gavin Seiler 2, Knoblauch 2. FG 28, FT 7-14, F 26.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane 8 14 18 14--54
Andale 20 14 10 18--62
Mulvane--Shay Cornejo 20, Neal Hamilton 8, Russell Norden 8, Jeremy Hoenscheidt 2, Norman Bowen 6, Sean Gillespie 6, Jo Nordenadler 4. FG 25-49, FT 4-10, F 7.
Andale--Brett Winter 10, Jason Grim 14, Greg Knoblauch 11, Mike Workman 2, Mark May 2, Mikal Williams 2, Kevin Brusser 15, Roger Stockemer 4, Duane Reichenberger 2. FG 30-66, FT 2-4, F 12.

Sophomore Boys

Mulvane 8 4 6 15--33
Andale 13 22 15 8--58
Mulvane--Jo Nordenadler 7, Brian Smith 2, Phillip Beehler 4, Sean Gillespie 6, John Heinrichs 2, Mike Higgins 2, Andrew Hodges 4, Larry Lambrecht 4, Channing Nuss 2. FG 15, FT 3-4, F 12.
Andale--Kelly Seiler 3, Heath Marx 15, Corey Lies 3, Duane Reichenberger 6, Mikal Williams 12, Graig Martin 2, Les Horning 6, Roger Stockemer 12. FG 26, FT 4-6, F 4.