

# Scoring Lulls Gets Cat Boys In Trouble

One minute Mulvane High School boys basketball coach Todd Barker is biting his nails and in the next minute, his Andale counterpart, Mernagh is biting his.

It was that kind of game Friday night, Dec. 5, when the Wildcats were in Andale for the 1997 season opener. Only one team celebrated. It was the Indians, who pulled away at the end for an 81-63 triumph in a Chisholm Trail League outing.

"It wasn't really an 18-point game," reflected Barker. "After the game, I looked up on the scoreboard and couldn't believe there were 18 points between the two teams. I felt like we were in it the whole way and I know Coach Mernagh felt the same way. They got a lead on us in the fourth quarter and we sent them to the foul line."

Time and time again. In all, the host Indians shot 24 free throws in the last period, making 16 of them.

Mulvane suffered two scoring lulls and it proved fateful for the Cats. The first came after Mulvane took a two-point lead in the second quarter. Things went dry and Andale rolled out to an 8-point lead before sophomore Jesse Marksberry came off the bench to ignite the MHS offense as the Cats rallied to tie it, 29-29, at intermission. The second came in the fourth quarter and forced the Cats to work hard on their fouling techniques.

"I still saw a lot of good things out there," said Barker. "Our problem is that we weren't consistent. It seemed like we were on '54' forever. Once they got that lead in the last quarter, it was just a matter of

mileage out of a veteran senior group.

"One thing I saw that I liked was our defensive intensity," said Barker. "We gave up 81 points but I thought our defensive intensity was really good. We played well on defense. We gave up some back door stuff, but we have that corrected already.

"And we out-rebounded them," added the Cat coach. "I thought we were going to be good on the boards and the kids did their job there. They are aggressive and go after the rebounds. We out-rebounded them, 37-35." Senior Clint Cox led the team with 12 boards and senior Dan McElroy finished with eight.

"We did a pretty good job of holding our turnovers down," said Barker. "That's another area where we wanted to show improvement. We had 17 for the ball game, which is more than I wanted but we had seven of those in the first quarter (leaving 10 for the last three periods). I thought we came out with the shakes a little"

Those "shakes" got the Cats off to a rocky start. Top guard Darrin Erbert got two fouls early and never was a factor, scoring one point. The team as a whole had trouble hitting the bucket until Marksberry came in and downed four of five from the field. "That seemed to get us ignited," said Barker. "Jesse did a nice job in his first varsity experience. Another one who came off the bench to give us some solid minutes was Brian Dinkel.

Senior Bryce Schumacher finished with the top figures for the Wildcats, scoring 20

points. Nine of those came in the third quarter when Mulvane needed a jump-start. Marksberry finished with 19 points off the bench and senior Clint Cox jumped in with 10 points. Chad Gerwick was next with seven points.

The Mulvane junior varsity also took it on the chin, 80-49, despite 18 points from Garrett Hennes, nine from Tom Anderson and eight by Randy Jackson. Chris Brannon scored six.

In the sophomore contest, Andale stopped the Wildcats, 45-31, as Marksberry

scored 14 points, Jared Rice had six and Josh Hanson five.

The Cats will host their first tournament in the two new MHS gyms. The Mulvane Early Season Tournament will pit Oxford, Douglass and Rose Hill against the Wildcats.

Games start tonight (Dec. 11) and will

continue through Saturday night, Dec. 13.

Friday night, Dec. 12th will be a special promotion at the tourney. Quill Type is conducting its Christmas Food Drive and anyone showing up with two non-perishable food items will be given free admission to the tournament.

## Mulvane Varsity Sports Early Season Tournament

Tonight (Dec. 11)

Main Gym

6 p.m.—Oxford girls vs. Mulvane girls

8 — Oxford boys vs. Mulvane boys

Gym No. 2

6 p.m.—Rose Hill boys vs. Douglass boys

8 — Rose Hill girls vs. Douglass girls

Friday, Dec. 12

Main Gym

6 p.m.—Mulvane girls vs. Douglass girls

8 — Mulvane boys vs. Douglass boys

Gym No. 2

6 p.m.—Rose Hill boys vs. Oxford boys

8 — Rose Hill girls vs. Oxford girls

Saturday, Dec. 13

Main Gym

2 p.m.—Douglass girls vs. Oxford girls

4 — Douglass boys vs. Oxford boys

6 — Mulvane girls vs. Rose Hill girls

8 — Mulvane boys vs. Rose Hill boys

whether or not they could make their free throws. And they did. You take 24 points away from their total and we're right there. Andale really comes at you and you either lose it at the line or put it away. Well, they put it away."

The good things Barker saw only reinforced his interest in getting the most

### Varsity Boys

Mulvane	10	19	19	15	63
Andale	14	15	24	28	81

Mulvane—Bryce Schumacher 20, Dan McElroy 4, Clint Cox 10, Darrin Erbert 1, Chad Gerwick 7, Jesse Marksberry 19, Ryan Rogers 2. FG 21 (5), FT 16-22, F 25.

Andale—Kont Brand 32, Adam Spexarth 15, Nate Steven 6, Luke May 3, Zac Richards 18, Gary McNeat 7. FG 28 (1), FT 24-34, F 21.

### Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	9	10	5	22	49
Andale	16	19	18	27	80

Mulvane—Chris Brannon 6, Garrett Hennes 18, Randy Johnson 8, Jake Wilkinson 2, Nick Pope 2, Tom Anderson 9, Josh Hanson 3, Jared Rice 1. FG 18 (3), FT 10-29, F 24.

Andale—Chad Meyer 14, Brandon Caselman 9, Dean Leahy 11, Nathan Simon 10, Lucas Hatten 10, Nate Steven 4, Jeremy Lies 7, Robby Spexarth 4, Jared Winter 2, Luke Eck 2, Mark McFadden 3. FG 34 (3), FT 9-25, F 23.

### Sophomore Boys

Mulvane	8	8	3	12	31
Andale	8	16	11	10	45

Mulvane—Josh Hanson 5, Jared Rice 6, Derek Paul 3, Jesse Marksberry 14, Nick Pope 2, Chris Brannon 1. FG 13 (2), FT 3-5, F 8.

Andale—Peter Lagaly 4, Shawn Lies 2, Nate Steven 2, Jeremy Lies 15, Cody George 4, Jerad Meyer 6, Adam Brownfield 2, Robby Spexarth 10. FG 21 (0), FT 3-6, F 8.