

Chanute: The Whole Package; Wildcats Shelled In 1st Game

Chanute was everything the Mulvane High School boys want to be this season.

The Wildcats opened their season Monday night, Dec. 9, in the first round of the Circle Thunderbird Classic but they never could catch Chanute as the Blue Comets were only a steak, causing Mulvane to crash and burn by a 95-50 count.

It was the opening game of the tournament. In other first-round games, Andover slammed Arkansas City, 80-60, Independence edged past Goddard, 54-50, and Circle dropped El Dorado, 60-49.

That leaves the Wildcats paired up against Ark City at 6:15 p.m. today (Dec. 12) in gym No. 2 in a consolation semifinal match. Goddard and El Dorado play in the other consolation semifinal.

"Chanute was excellent," is all Mulvane Coach Todd Barker could say. "They did an excellent job. They're going to put the hammer on quite a few people this year. That's what we want to play like. We wanted to be

Circle Thunderbird Classic Boys Results

FIRST ROUND

Chanute 22 24 21 6-95
Mulvane 8 22 10 10-50

Chanute—Brad Waller 15, Matt Reid 23, Brent Ranabargar 8, Jesse Williams 3, Brett Olson 10, Doug Taylor 7, Bryan Luttrell 5, Eric Burris 8, Derek Kelly 5, Matt Cox 2, Mike Brady 5, Chris Martin 3. FG 35 (5), FT 11-17, F 20.

Mulvane—Chad Gerwick 13, Darrin Erbert 13, Brad Canfield 8, Bryce Schumacher 4, Keene Hargrove 4, Clint Cox 2, Luke Cox 3. FG 16 (5), FT 13-30, F 18.

Andover 80, Arkansas City 60
Independence 54, Goddard 50
Circle 60, El Dorado 49

Circle Thunderbird Classic Boys Pairings

TONIGHT (DEC. 12)

Game 5 — Arkansas City vs. Mulvane, gym No. 2, 6:15 p.m.

Game 6 — Andover vs. Chanute, gym No. 1, 6:15

Game 7 — Goddard vs. El Dorado, gym No. 2, 8

Game 8 — Independence vs. Circle, gym No. 1, 8

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of games 5 and 7, 11:30 a.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 7, 1:15 p.m.

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

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

aggressive, we wanted to get up and down the floor, we wanted to take and make good shots and we wanted to be deep. That's exactly what they were. They did it all those things and we just along for the ride."

Barker had the Blue Comets scouted when they opened the season last week against Erie so he knew what to expect. "We knew they were going to get up and down the court," said the Wildcat coach. "We knew they had quickness but we didn't anticipate the intensity. Our defensive intensity wasn't there. We seemed to be shaking in our boots, which is something we have to get over."

The Comets wasted little time establishing whose "kingdome" it was at the Circle High School gym. It was theirs. Chanute raced out to a 22-8 lead and never looked back. After Chanute ripped off another 34-22 run in the second quarter, it was time to look to the next game.

"I think one of the things that surprised me was their intensity, they kept it up the whole game," said Barker. "And we really couldn't buy a bucket, we couldn't buy a rebound. They won every aspect of this game. The only positive to come out of it is that it's over. Let's go on."

The Blue Comets beat Mulvane down the floor too many times in the first half, leading to easy buckets, and topping things off, the Wildcats shot a horrid percentage at the free throw stripe, 13-for-30. "I don't know where that's coming from, we had been shooting our free throws pretty well but it was horrible. It's pretty sad to hit only 39% from the line. I guess it was the first-game jitters. Overall, we're normally pretty sound at the line."

Chanute won every aspect of this blowout. The Blue Comets hit 47% from the field, the Cats 33%. Chanute committed 12 turnovers and the Cats committed 26. And Chanute out-boarded Mulvane, 37-33. It was like Chanute was trying to make amends for finishing dead last in the Circle tournament a year ago all in one night. The Comets nearly did it, too.

"We knew they were going to run and pass but we didn't believe they were going

to be that aggressive," said Barker. "They turned it up a notch or two for us. They had fire in their eyes when they came out on the floor and they got after it. I thought our kids could handle it but we were tentative. We had the first-game jitters and that didn't help us any. I hope the kids learned something for this game. You can't walk out there and be intimidated. You have to get it up and get with the program."

There really weren't many bright spots for Mulvane's boys. Chanute did commit

more fouls than the Wildcats, satisfying one goal the Cats have this year to cut down on their fouls, but the only hot hand went to junior Chad Gerwick, who nailed 3 of 4 three-pointers—but that came after the cows were long gone.

Gerwick finished with 13 points, the same figure as junior guard Darrin Erbert. The Mulvane inside game was luke warm—6-foot, 7-inch Brad Canfield scoring eight points. Bryce Schumacher and Keene Hargrove had four points apiece.