

Lead Vanishes

Boys Wilt Under Pressure

For the second consecutive game, the Mulvane High School boys couldn't stand success. And for the second consecutive game, the Wildcats had to swallow a bitter pill.

Up by 16 points in the 3rd quarter, the Wildcats wilted in the last quarter under a pressing defense and lost a 59-51 game to Andale Tuesday night, Dec. 10, in the opening round of the Andale Arrowhead Shootout at the new Andale High School gym.

"It's just sickening," said MHS Coach Ryan Herrs. "The kids are very disappointed and so are we coaches. They know what they have to do to win games. That's two games in a row where we had our opponent down and lost a big lead in the second half.

They put the press on and we couldn't handle the pressure. We had a lot of turnovers in 3rd and 4th quarters. We win if we can handle the pressure. We walk away winners if we can make the plays."

The Cats worked hard in the 2nd quarter to out-score the host Indians, 17-6, for a 29-19 halftime lead and bumped that margin to 36 points before Andale started pressing full court.

"The guys have to grow up," declared Herrs. "Teams aren't going to hand us a victory. We have proven that we are as good as any team we are going to play. It's just a matter of finishing the games. I told them

last night that we're going to see pressure every single game. It's up to them to go out and finish each game."

Guard Greg Flores and insider Zach Kimble carried the scoring load for the Wildcats. Flores scored 14 points and Kimble dumped in 16. Seniors Tyler Hennes and Dusty Sorensen finished with eight points and four, respectively, and Gavin Snider also had four points.

The Cats will play at 5:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, against Rose Hill and conclude their tournament at 3:45 Saturday afternoon against Douglass.

The Wildcat boys opened their season in Kingman Friday night, Dec. 6, and it was one of those "lessons of life" games. The host Eagles rallied late to dump the Cats, 46-39.

"It was my most disappointing loss since I've been at Mulvane," admitted Coach Herrs, "but at the same time, I was awfully proud of the the kids. I think they learned a lesson about finishing a game. We could have knocked off a ranked team if we could have finished off the game. And personally, I learned a lesson about my depth. I'm not used to having it and I felt like our kids just got tired because I didn't use my depth."

The spunky Wildcats were up on the Eagles going into the final quarter but

Kingman pulled ahead by out-scoring the Cats, 15-7, in the last quarter.

"We did a great job defensively until the fourth quarter, then we started getting slower and slower on defense," added Herrs. "We went with a 3-2 zone and the kids were having great rotation in the first half to keep Kingman's (6-foot, 7-inch) center from getting the ball but as the kids tired, they didn't have that same rotation and he started hurting us down the stretch. He had 16 in the second half and in the first half the kids were keeping him from getting off his shot.

"I've been saying we have more depth, more players this year but when it came time to coach, I didn't use that depth because I'm not used to it. Our kids just wore down," said Herrs. "That was my lesson learned. We have some depth this year. We have some guys sitting on the bench that we didn't use enough. In my first two years here, I wasn't able to have much depth. After the game, I came to the realization that we needed to use our bench more because we tired out."

The Wildcats came out a fired-up bunch and their running game was in tip-top shape early. "We are were able to run and these kids are good at that," said Herrs. "They filled the lanes and we took the game to

them. Kingman finally had to put a full court man-to-man on us to slow us down and it worked. We didn't turn the ball over but what Kingman did was make us run our half-court offense and it's just not totally ready."

Kingman finally slipped ahead and held on, but the loss left Herrs feeling good about where his Wildcats are headed.

Andale Arrowhead Shootout

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane boys	12	17	14	8-51
Andale boys	13	6	17	23-59

Mulvane—Greg Flores 14, Zach Kimble 16, Dusty Sorensen 4, Luke Gunter 2, Nick Hansen 3, Tyler Hennes 8, Gavin Snider 4. FG 21 (1), FT 8-8, F 19.

Andale—Dan Simon 5, Michael McFadden 13, Luke Posch 8, Paul Eck 23, Kyle Zenner 6, Gerard Spexarth 4. FG 22 (2), FT 13-24, F 12.

Rose Hill boys 49, Douglass boys 41

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	8	13	11	7-39
Kingman	3	12	16	15-46

Mulvane—Luke Gunter 4, Dusty Sorensen 2, Nick Hansen 9, Tyler Hennes 11, Greg Flores 2, Gavin Snider 1. FG 15 (1), FT 8-11, F 11.

Kingman—Stephen Ducharme 22, Andrew Hook 7, Tyler Swartzendruber 7, Brandon Clark 3, Erik Dewese 1. FG 20 (4), FT 2-4, F 16.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	14	6	17	12-49
Kingman	13	15	22	12-62

Mulvane—
Kingman—Larry Miller 12, Seth Adellhardt 11, Chet Hartley 10, Andrew Hook 8, Brandon Clark 7, Tyler Swartzendruber 7, Casey Bales 5, Marc Cowart 2.