

Shots Don't Fall, Cat Game Bogs Down In Tournament

The running and gunning isn't enough when the shots are falling. When that happens, there's only disappointment.

That's where Mulvane High School Coach Charlie Mason is now. The shots weren't falling for the Wildcats Monday night, Dec. 10, as the Wildcats played Circle in the opening round of the Circle Thunderbird Boys Classic.

That enabled the host T-Birds to demolish the Wildcats with a school-record output of 93 points in a 93-41 thrashing.

The loss was the second in a row for MHS this season and dropped Mulvane into the loser's bracket for a 6:15 showdown tonight (Dec. 13) with Andover, an 81-51 loser to Arkansas City.

In other first-round games, El Dorado pounded Rose Hill, 87-57, and Independence stifled Augusta, 60-55.

But for the Wildcats, it was a disappointing pill to swallow. The Thunderbirds bolted to the lead quickly and kept the pressure on. By intermission, the score was 51-25, and it got worse before it got better as the Cats managed only 16 points in the second half.

"We didn't do a lot of things well," stated the veteran taskmaster Mason. "We definitely didn't play defense, and we talked about the fact that Circle would be aggressive and physical. We just didn't deal with it. We talked about what we needed to do to control their size, but we didn't do anything about it. Their big guy inside got seven offensive rebounds and that's the only way he got his points."

On offense, the Cats weren't able to accomplish much. Wanting to be the "kings" of three-point land, they were handled as Circle made five three-point shots while MHS made none. "On offense, we didn't do the job," admitted Mason. "We missed some easy shots inside but when you shoot 32%, you're not shooting the ball. Plus, we aren't getting any second and third shots. That is reflected in the low percentage. Circle was more physical and aggressive than we were and they got the

Circle Thunderbird Boys Classic Results

FIRST ROUND

Circle	21	30	20	22	93
Mulvane	8	17	10	6	41

Circle: Scott Swan 25, Trent Brown 16, Scott Lygnisse 11, Cassidy 8, Ryan Carter 9, Bacon 4, Black 4, Patton 4, Cox 4, Nester 2, Cox 4, Thompson 4 1G 37 71 5), FT 14 18, 1 1 1

Mulvane: Gary Cleverdon 14, Andy Mackey 2, Toby Hoving 4, Jeff Parson 6, Jarrod Oldridge 2, Chris Wagoner 7, Brock Davis 2, Judson Spicer 2 1G 19 60 00, FT 3 9, 1 1 1

El Dorado 87, Rose Hill 57

Independence 60, Augusta 55

Arkansas City 81, Andover 51

rebounds. We talked about blocking people out but when you just stand there, it's easy for somebody to go right on around you to get the ball."

The Wildcats hit only 19 of 60 fielders (32%) while Circle made 37 of 71 (52%).

"It takes more than one scorer to win ball games and we're just got getting any balance," added Mason.

Defensively, well, 93 points tells the story. A critical problem last season when Mulvane went 0-21 was a lack of defense. That appears to be a problem again this year. "Instead of having progress, I would say it kind of looks like we regressed," said

Mason. "It's disappointing. We're playing everybody and that's about all you can do."

Mason said newcomer Chris Wagoner checked in with a good game. The Wichita transfer scored seven points and had six rebounds.

Junior veteran Gary Cleverdon led the Cat scoring with 14 points but he was the only player in double figures. Wagoner was next with seven, followed by Jeff Parson with six and Toby Hoving with four.

"Everything has to work as one unit for us to be successful," added Mason. "Defense, offense, rebounding. When you're offense breaks down, you're defense has to be solid, but it hasn't been. We're trying to fix it. We want to continue working on our pressure but we can't pressure anybody because we're not quick enough. We tried to play good, solid half-court defense but didn't get the job done."