

MHS Boys Run Out Of Gas

Since the start of the practice season, Mulvane High School coach Charlie Mason has been concerned about one small word: depth.

That word came back to haunt the Wildcat basketballers Friday night at home against Valley Center in the Chisholm Trail League opener for both

Varsity Boys

Valley Center	13	23	19	17-72
Mulvane	18	20	15	10-63

Valley Center—Frank Lesperance 7, Chad Niltcher 19, Ryan Hurlbutt 2, Spike Anderson 10, Todd Adrian 5, Carl Franklin 8, Brett Warner 8, Bobby Webber 13. FG 29 (0), (1), FT 11-17, F 15.

Mulvane—Neal Hamilton 7, Sean Gillespie 8, Toby Butcher 7, John Melick 6, Shay Cornejo 31, Russell Norden 4. FG 25 (3), FT 10-18, F 17.

Junior Varsity Boys

Valley Center	18	22	12	30-82
Mulvane	7	9	8	12-36

Valley Center—Ryan Hulbutt 8, Todd Adrian 8, Bill Glover 4, Marc McGee 11, Bobby Webber 6, Scott Nordstedt 5, Bryan Newell 5, Larry Boese 15, Brian Tackett 1, Mike Warner 6, Matt Sharpe 8, Steve Cowel 3, Jeremy Ensey 2. FG 28-48 (0), FT 26-40, F 15.

Mulvane—Mike Higgins 3, Andrew Hodges 13, Mark McClellan 5, John Heinrich 8, Jeff Sisco 2, Bruce Brashear 2, Curtis Norden 3. FG 15-43 (2), FT 4-10, F 29.

Sophomore Boys

Valley Center	8	12	12	20-52
Mulvane	9	6	14	11-40

Valley Center—Troy Keeler 9, Greg Ackerman 1, Chris Kallenbach 8, Steve Cowel 15, Jeremy Ensey 12, Jeremy Tipping 2, Matt Sharpe 5. FG 19-45 (1), FT 13-26, F 22.

Mulvane—Curtis Norden 3, Jeff Sisco 7, Bruce Brashear 5, Andy Church 8, Todd Butcher 4, Bill Harrington 8, Tom Simrell 5. FG 13-29 (4), FT 10-28, F 19.

squads. The visiting Hornets wore down Mulvane and prevailed with a 72-63 decision.

The loss dropped Mulvane's overall record to 0-2 and 0-1 in the league while Valley squared its record at 1-1.

In a junior varsity game, Valley Center murdered Mulvane, 82-36, and the Hornets made it a clean sweep by taking a 52-40 victory in a sophomore game earlier Friday.

"The biggest factor Friday night is we ran into fatigue in the fourth quarter," said Mason. "Sometimes fatigue makes you do funny things and in this case, it caused us to make some bad turnovers. Plus, when you're tired, like some of us where, the shots aren't falling in the fourth quarter."

For the Cats, the shots weren't falling in the third and fourth periods. After running out to a 38-36 halftime lead, the Wildcats faltered. Valley out-gunned the Cats, 19-15, in the third quarter, then took complete charge in the last period, out-scoring Mulvane, 17-10.

"We just made too many mistakes in the fourth quarter," added the MHS coach. "We came down to the last minute in both our games and lost them both, but we did play much better against Valley, plus we played a much better team, I felt. We shot the ball better than the first week but we just

had too many mistakes to win. I have felt like depth was going to be a problem all season. It's been there since the first of the year, and I have one person suspended and another, Norman Bowen, who has been out. That hurts even more."

On the bright side, the Wildcats shot 54% from the field (25 of 48) and also won the rebound battle. Still, the fact remains Mulvane is 0-2. "These were two ball games we should have won," complained Mason. "I don't like the idea of being 0-2, but Valley Center has good young kids and he started five underclassmen against us. We should have been 2-0 instead of 0-2. That's where I thought we'd be at this point."

Senior Shay Cornejo, the lone Cat with good experience, had an outstanding game, gunning in a career-high 31 points. "Toby Butcher had a good game defensively and on the boards for us," added Mason. "And John Melick played a pretty good game. He's coming on. You have to look at the inexperience we have, that's a big factor. You expect good things out of your good people but we didn't get enough to overcome the mistakes."

Cornejo's 31-point outburst took game honors and no other Wildcat was in double figures. Guard Sean Gillespie finished with eight points and both guard Neal Hamilton and 6-foot, 3-inch center Butcher scored seven points.

For the Mulvane jayvees, Andrew Hodges scored 13 points, John Heinrichs had eight and Mark McClellan had five. The Hornets flew off early, taking an 18-7 lead in the first quarter, then building that out to a 40-16 halftime margin.

The Mulvane sophomores hung in until the fourth period against Valley, trailing by only three points after three quarters. Top scorers for Mulvane were Bill Harrington and Andy Church, each scoring eight points. Jeff Sisco was next with seven and Tom Simrell and Bruce Brashear scored five points apiece.

The Wildcats will be playing in the Maize Boys Invitational this week three straight days since the tournament format was changed by bad weather. The Cats open the tournament today (Dec. 17) against Pratt at 3 p.m. The next regular season game for Mulvane is the final outing before the Christmas break. Mulvane will be on the road at Augusta Tuesday, Dec. 22.