

Glimmer Of Hope Shines Despite Boys Falling To 0-3

At first glance, 0-3 isn't exactly something to write home about, but Mulvane High School basketball coach Dale Landes received his first encouraging words in the opening round of the Circle Thunderbird Classic Tuesday night, Dec. 15.

The words were: It's overtime.

The Wildcats played their best game of the season Tuesday at Circle but lost it in overtime as the host Thunderbirds held on for a 58-49 decision.

Circle tied the game in the final minute on two free throws then out-scored the Cats, 11-2, in the extra period.

"We played pretty well the whole game, though," pointed out Landes, who had been looking for something to be encouraged about. "We didn't play well in the overtime because we didn't score in our first two possessions and they did. That put us back on our heels the rest of the way and we had to foul. They put the ball in Casady's hands and he went seven-for-8 in overtime. I feel the early possessions in overtime are extremely important and we couldn't get the shots to go down."

The loss dropped the Wildcats to 0-3 for the year as they head into the next round of the round robin tournament against Independence in an 8:15 p.m. game tonight (Dec. 17). The last round of the tournament will be played Saturday, Dec. 19. The 5th place game will take place at 5 and 3rd place will be decided at 6:30.

"We had three opportunities in the last few seconds to win it in regulation but the shot wouldn't go down," said Landes. "We called a time out with 26 seconds left so we could set up one play. We got the play run perfectly but J.J. (Dunn) spotted Brian Strack low and passed it instead of shooting it. Brian Heinrichs got a shot, Jason DeWald missed a rebound shot and so did Brian. We thought their might have been some fouls in

there but nothing was called."

Landes was most happy with the overall effort, though. "I thought the team showed a lot of guts and determination," said Landes. "We led, 14-9, after one quarter but didn't score again until the last three minutes before halftime. We were still up, though, because our defense came through. We came out in the third quarter and were really flat but battled with them and hung right in there. We had a couple of defensive breakdowns in overtime that hurt, but overall, I would have

Circle Thunderbird Boys Classic

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	14	8	12	13 (2)—49
Circle	9	12	17	9 (11)—58
Mulvane	—Brian Strack 12, Steve Nelson 10, Jeremy Kendrick 2, Dan Smith 4, Jason DeWald 14, J.J. Dunn 7. FG 20-52 (2), FT 7-10, F 24.			
Circle	—Eric Casady 19, Travis Bacon 18, Zac Zager 6, Craig Steeds 7, Casey Belknap 3, Chris Nester 5. FG 21-54 (1), FT 15-22, F 17.			

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Sunrise 69, Arkansas City 55
Independence 84, Circle 69
Andover 71, Sunrise 67

Circle Thunderbird Boys Classic Pairings

Tonight (Dec. 17)

6:15 p.m.—Mulvane vs. Independence
8 — Andover vs. Arkansas City

Saturday, Dec. 19

5 p.m.—5th place
6:30 — 3rd place
8 — Championship

to say these kids have come a long ways since losing to Rose Hill last week."

Junior center Jason DeWald, who came off the bench because of a leg injury, finished with 14 points and seven rebounds. Strack had a fine game, scoring 12 points, and his backcourt mate, Steve Nelson, had his best game and scored 10 points.

"J.J. Dunn also had his best game of this season," added Landes. "He's still struggling with his shot, but its starting to come around. And I can't say enough about

Nelson's job handling the ball. He had only one turnover but he had several assists.

"The kids really showed me a lot Tuesday night. We could have come out and really regressed off the Rose Hill loss. All week long in practice, we stressed playing hard when you're on the floor, and the staff also worked hard on our shooting because we haven't been shooting the ball. It all seemed to come together because the kids had their best game."

Chisholm Trail League Basketball Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	1	0	3	1
Goddard	1	0	2	0
Augusta	0	0	3	1
Valley Center	0	0	1	1
Maize	0	0	1	0
Wellington	0	1	1	1
Mulvane	0	1	0	2

DIVISION II

Kingman	1	0	2	0
Rose Hill	1	0	3	1
Circle	0	0	1	0
Chaparral	0	0	0	4
Clearwater	0	0	0	4
Andover	0	1	1	1
Andale	0	1	0	2

Games This Week

Circle Thunderbird Round-Robin—Mulvane, Andover, Circle
Maize Tournament—Valley Center, Maize, Andale, Goddard, Kingman

Games Friday, Dec. 18

Gt. Bend at Buhler
Augusta at Valley Center

Games Monday, Dec. 21

Circle at Chaparral

Games Tuesday, Dec. 22

Andale at Mulvane
Rose Hill at Independence
McPherson at Valley Center