

Cats Going In Right Direction

Sometimes, the hardest thing is to go in the right direction.

The Mulvane High School Wildcat boys lost to Valley Center Friday night, Dec. 14, but they appear to be heading in the right direction.

Coach Ryan Herrs doesn't want to talk about moral victories. He'd settle for just victories, but sometimes you have to crawl before you walk. That's where the Wildcats are now, playing better than a year ago and going in the right direction.

The Cats hung right with Valley Center before a late spurt put the game in the Hornets' back pocket with a 64-51 verdict in a Chisholm Trail League game in Mulvane.

"I know the kids don't like 'moral victories,' I don't like 'moral victories,' said Coach Herrs. "But I think we're taking steps in the right direction and that's good."

The loss left the Cats saddled with a 2-3 mark heading into the last game before the holidays Friday night, Dec. 21, at Augusta.

"I thought we played pretty good basketball, but I wasn't happy with our rebounding," emphasized Herrs, singling out one of the reasons for losing to VC. "We gave up 17 offensive boards. Another reason is that they shot 23 of 28 from the free throw line. We made more field goals but those two factors kept us from winning the game."

Other than a little spurt in the second quarter which saw the Hornets take advantage of a couple of turnovers to roll out to a 19-10 advantage in the quarter, the game was frankly a dead heat. VC out-scored the Wildcat boys, 28-27, in the second half.

"The second half of basketball was our best half this season, in fact, it was the best half I have seen Mulvane play, ever," said Herrs. "We adjusted to their pressure defense and after that, we stayed even with them. We had only six turnovers in the second half."

Herrs also liked the Cats' man-to-man defense did a good job. "It was really solid, about as good as I've seen since I've been here, but the only problem is that we fouled too much playing it," said Herrs. "And when we put them to the line, they hit the free throws."

The Wildcat coach felt one reason was his defenders wore down. "That's another thing we're trying to teach these kids, how to pressure them, pressure the ball and pressure when your tired," said Herrs. "When you get tired, you stop moving your feet and start reaching. That's when you get fouls. I don't think we have made fewer field goals than anyone we've played. The difference

Varsity Boys

Valley Center	17	19	9	19-64
Mulvane	14	10	10	17-51
Valley Center—Mike Campbell 10, Chad Wilmott 19, Pat Edwards 14, Garrett Konen 12, Brent Buchholz 5, Tyler Hewitt 4. FG 20 (1), FT 23-28, F 10.				
Mulvane—John Beggs 12, Troy Johnson 12, Tyler Hennes 4, Kale Regier 4, Nathan Gunter 11, Zach Kimble 2, Gavin Snider 2, Brian Blue 2, Jeremy Adams 2. FG 23 (1), FT 4-7, F 24.				
Mulvane	8	17	7	14-46
Clearwater	14	11	13	11-49
Mulvane—Kale Regier 11, John Beggs 2, Dusty Sorensen 2, Gavin Snider 2, Troy Johnson 22, Zach Kimble 4, Nick Hansen 3. FG 17 (4), FT 6-13, F 16.				
Clearwater—Jacob Laha 8, Jason Brady 1, Jaimee Hazelton 13, Matthew Westbrook 7, Jeff Brady 13, Chris Lang 5, Nate Carr 2. FG 20 (2), FT 7-17, F 15.				

Junior Varsity Boys

Valley Center	22	7	17	23-69
Mulvane	16	19	2	7-44
Valley Center—Opliger 5, Carter 9, Riffel 15, Buchholz 5, Smith 10, Scribner 10, Goolsby 8, Kincheloe 7. FG 23 (2), FT 21-36, F 15.				
Mulvane—Greg Flores 20, Caleb Alexander 2, Zach Kimble 6, Gavin Snider 7, David Mason 3, Chris Simon 6. FG 18 (4), FT 4-7, F 25.				
Mulvane	7	6	14	19-46
Clearwater	3	14	3	14-34
Mulvane—Greg Flores 9, Grant Snider 14, Zach Kimble 1, Gavin Snider 13, Kiel Mangus 4, Travis McGuire 4, David Mason 1, Chris Simon 2. FG 18 (3), FT 9-12, F 16.				
Clearwater—Jason Brady 15, Nick Bell 6, Mark Batten 2, Landon Doll 6, Craig Mellen 4, Nate Carr 1. FG 13 (4), FT 4-11, F 13.				

in our three losses is at the free throw line.

"Right now, I'm encouraged about the attitude when it comes to playing defense. The kids see that their defense isn't good enough and they want to work to get it better so they can win games. That's their No. 1 objective."

Senior Troy Johnson had another double-digit game, hitting for 12 points. John Beggs tossed in 12 points and guard Nathan Gunter scored 11.

Playing at Clearwater Tuesday, Dec. 11, the Cats tumbled by a 49-46 count. In that game, Johnson poured in 22 points, guard Kale Regier scored 11 and sophomore Zach Kimble finished with four points.

The Wildcat boys split the two junior varsity outings. Valley charged from behind, out-scoring the MHS jayvees, 40-9, in the last half to win by a 69-44 score. At Clearwater, Mulvane's JV came from behind with a second half rally to win, 46-34.

Top scorer for the Mulvane JV team against VC was Greg Flores with 20 points. Gavin Snider scored seven points and Kimble hit for six. Grant Snider's 14 points and 13 from Gavin Snider carried the offense against Clearwater. Flores had nine points and Travis McGuire and Kiel Mangus had four apiece.