

Welcome To Town!

Now, Start The Bus!

It didn't take long for Valley Center's Hornets to welcome the Mulvane High School boys to town Friday night...just about 30 seconds.

The Hornets pressed and Mulvane gave up the ball.

Valley used that formula to charge out to a big halftime lead, then eased into a 74-37 victory Friday night, Dec. 15, in the first Chisholm Trail League Division I game of the season for both teams.

The loss left new MHS boys coach Ryan Herrs standing at 0-4 for the season. Welcome to Division I, Wildcats!

Because of the CTL realignment when Chaparral dropped out of the league after the 1999-2000 school year, the Cats were bumped up to Division I to play with "the big boys" this year. And their first experience with the division wasn't a happy one.

"The kids played hard and I think they are starting to believe in what they are doing, but we still have a lot of demons to exorcise at Mulvane. When things go wrong, we go hide from it and nobody wants to step up and take responsibility. We're trying to change that and hopefully, we can get better as the season progresses."

The Hornets rolled out to a 23-10 margin after one quarter and by halftime the game was essentially decided as VC had a 43-19 edge.

"One of the problems we are battling is that we can't handle the ball," said Herrs. "I believe that that fact is a mental thing. We can handle the ball but when you don't think you can, when you lack confidence, it's tough to do. We're trying to build confidence in our ability to handle the ball. We're working on ball-handling exercises every day in practice and trying to overcome that problem."

It has been a problem this year. In the Cats' opening tournament, Mulvane lost by three points to Oxford but the team had around 30 turnovers. "I look back at that game and see 30 turnovers and we gave up 16 offensive rebounds," pointed out Herrs. "That's 46 extra opportunities for them and they only beat us three points. We had some of those same problems against Valley Center."

The Hornets smothered the MHS offense, too, causing Mulvane to go without a field goal for nearly 12 minutes straight in

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	10	9	3	15-37
Valley Center	23	20	10	21-74

Mulvane--Ryan McKnight 3, Andy Hixson 5, Brian Love 3, Chris Gerhardt 3, Tyler Hennes 5, Jason Wilson 9, Jonathan Reed 3, Caleb Alexander 2, Jason Phillips 4. FG 12 (2), FT 11-22, F 30.

Valley Center--Travis Mullins 7, Pat Edwards 11, Matt Coleman 8, Tyler Alefs 5, Chad Wilmott 7, Austin Powers 12, Michael Campbell 4, Chase Ishman 6, Brent Buchholz 2, Tyler Hewitt 3, Jared Ensey 9. FG 24 (3), FT 23-29, F 24.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	11	14	12	19-66
Valley Center	20	26	12	13-81

Mulvane--Kale Reiger 14, Dusty Sorensen 22, Luke Gunter 2, Tyler Hennes 2, Jeremy Adams 10, Shane Webster 6. FG 21 (7), FT 7-9, F 16.

Valley Center--Oplinger 9, Simon 13, Konen 4, Wheeler 6, Nutter 6, Bachholz 14, Hewitt 5, Riffel 4, Kincheloe 2, Edwards 18. FG 34 (0), FT 13-16, F 21.

the second and third quarters. "That's another part of our problem, we have to find some scoring punch," said Herrs. "We have a hard time scoring. You really have to give Jason Wilson credit because he's our only scoring threat. He's been in double figures every game and we haven't had anybody else in double figures. We keep working with our post players hoping they will get in there and develop to the level of play we need. It gets a little better each day. Ryan McKnight could absolutely dominate inside if he wanted to, but he's got to believe in himself first."

Wilson led the Wildcat scoring. He had nine points. Andy Hixson and sophomore Tyler Hennes scored five points each. Senior Jason Phillips, out for the first time this season, had four points and Jonathan Reed, McKnight and Chris Gerhardt scored three points each.

Scoring wasn't a problem for the Cat junior varsity. They racked up a 66-point performance. Trouble is Valley Center couldn't be stopped and won by an 81-66 score.

Sophomore Dusty Sorensen connected for 22 points, including three three-pointers. Kale Reiger, a move-in from McPherson seeing his first action since becoming eligible, hit 14 points and four three-pointers. Jeremy Adams gave the Cats three players in double figures when he finished with 10 points. Shane Webster scored six.

Mulvane plays its first home game Friday night, Dec. 22, when Augusta is in town for another CTL series.