

Wildcat Boys Keep Record Clean, Pressure 'D' Pays Off At Maize

Christmas came early for Mulvane High School boys basketball coach Charlie Mason, as the Wildcats said "Merry Christmas" with the Maize Invitational championship Saturday night, Dec. 17.

The Wildcats, hiking their record to 5-0 for the year, followed a pattern in the three-game tournament, falling

MAIZE BOYS INVITATIONAL Championship

Mulvane 14 10 15 18-57
Pratt 14 14 10 10-48
Mulvane--David Belew 12, Lonny Travis 22, Kevin Bell 4, Todd Travis 12, J.C. Shook 3, Aaron Huslig 4. FG 23-48, FT 11-13, F 13.
Pratt--Keesee 13, Ty Piper 7, Becker 6, Jochems 9, Blankenship 11, Jorns 2. FG 21-52, FT 6-12, F 15.

Third Place

Valley Center 59, Andale 55

Consolation First

Maize 63, Nickerson 58

Consolation Third

Clearwater 73, Conway Springs 44

Semifinal

Andale 15 10 15 10-50
Mulvane 13 10 12 19-54
Andale--Rich Martin 6, Russell Gorges 7, Jerry Martin 10, Bill Doll 4, Kevin Engels 18, Ted Orth 5. FG 21-43, FT 8-15, F 12.
Mulvane--Lonny Travis 13, David Belew 10, Kevin Bell 12, J.C. Shook 4, Todd Travis 11, Aaron Huslig 4. FG 23-51, FT 8-13, F 16.

behind in the first half, then coming on like an out-of-control tank in the second half to squelch Pratt, 57-48, in the title game and Andale again, 54-50, in the semifinals a night earlier.

Against Pratt's Greenbacks, the Wildcats simply found another gear. "It was our most outstanding game of the year," said Mason. "I don't know when we went 5-0 to start the season but it's been a while. I feel good about every aspect of our game, it couldn't have been a better Christmas present."

The Greenbacks carried a 28-24

advantage into the second half but that's when the Cats went to what is quickly becoming their "ace in the hole," a half-court 1-3-1 zone defense.

"We started applying more pressure in the second half, extending our defense and literally took Pratt out of their offense," added Mason. "That was the best defense we've played in the last three or four years. We put the pressure on up front and we have some good kids who can read the pass and intercept in the back."

With guards Kevin Bell and David

Belew having another fine game playing "takeaway," the Wildcats rolled in the second half, outscoring Pratt, 33-20, in the final 16 minutes.

The Travis brothers--junior Lonny and senior Todd--powered the MHS offense with 22 and 12 points, respectively, hitting a combined 14-of-23 from the field. Belew also hit twin figures with 12 points.

In the semifinal game against Andale, the Cats repeated a narrow victory over the Indians, 54-50, coming from behind in the final five minutes. Andale built a solid seven-point lead as the Cats played poorly before the final quarter surge.

In that game, L. Travis scored 13 points, Bell had 12, T. Travis added 11 and Belew made it a quartet with 10.

The Wildcats next swing back into action at Buhler Friday, Jan. 6, in what could be the showdown for the lead in the Chisholm Trail League Division I. Mason's Cats are No. 2 in the latest state-wide Class 4A poll and the Crusaders, perennially strong, are No. 4 in class 5A rankings.

Travis Boys All-Tournament

Two Mulvane Players were listed on the all-tournament team at the Maize Boys Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Senior Todd Travis, a 6-foot-4 Wildcat, was named to the first unit while Lonny Travis, Mulvane No. 1 scorer during the

three-game tournament, was a second team selection.

Joining Todd on the No. 1 unit were 6-4 Ty Piper and Jeff Jochems, both of second place Pratt, Kevin Engels of Andale and guard Rod Williams of Valley Center.