

# Mulvane Boys Slump To 0-5

It took the Mulvane High School boys only one quarter to find themselves and only the minute intermission between quarters to lose it again.

After standing toe-to-toe with Chaparral in the first quarter, the Roadrunners put it into a higher gear and pulled away from the Wildcats the final three periods on the way to a 52-34 triumph in the first Chisholm Trail League game for both teams Friday night, Dec. 17, at Chaparral.

The loss left new coach John Dartow facing an 0-5 start as the Cats head into the Christmas vacation. But it also left Dartow undaunted by the task ahead.

"I thought we again did some more good things and we are making improvements in the execution part of our game," said Dartow, "but we still have a ways to go. We have some guys getting better and that's what it takes."

For 12 minutes, the MHS boys were hanging in against the Roadrunners, who improved their record to 2-3. After one quarter, Chappy held a 17-14 edge, but that's where it ended. The hosts reeled off a 12-2 string in the second quarter then built a 16-point lead after three quarters.

"The first quarter was one of our best quarters this year," stressed Dartow. "We started executing well, running plays like we had been running them in practice. Our biggest problem, though, is developing patience. We were more patient in the first

quarter and we were successful. In the second quarter when a couple things went wrong, four or five things went wrong. That's when we should have slowed it down and started getting more patient on both offense and defense, but we didn't."

One thing that started happening is that the Wildcat perimeter people stopped looking for the pass inside. "We weren't getting the ball inside to our posts in that quarter like we were in the first quarter," said Dartow. "That's when we seem to have our best scoring success. It's just one of those mental lapses that we're dealing with. We didn't run our offense as well as we ran it earlier in the game, and that caused us to have a drought."

A bucket by senior guard Jason Wilson with about two minutes left before halftime snapped a six-minute scoreless spell that put Mulvane on the run. And once behind, the Wildcats' haven't shown the firepower to turn up the heat. After all, Mulvane's averaging less than 25 points an outing.

"Once they got the lead, we were in trouble," said Dartow. "They beat us by only five points in the second half, but it's difficult to make a run at somebody when you're having trouble scoring. That just points to one thing that I have liked about this team. They continued to work hard the whole game. They do not give up. They work harder as the game goes on. If they continue to do that, they are going to be there later on in the season."

The comeback process was even more difficult because the Cats always appeared to be a half-step behind. "That's something I have noticed and I've even had some of the kids come up and mention it," said Dartow. "That's a major thing because in basketball you always have to be a half-step ahead. Anyway, I think it is a major thing to recognize it and also the first step in getting it fixed."

Through the early shooting, one area seems to be picking up for Mulvane: rebounding. "We had our best rebounding game against Chaparral," said Dartow. "We had a season-high 33 rebounds, so all of our work on rebounding in practice is starting to pay off. I think we are getting better in that area. I also think that can be one of our strengths."

Eight Wildcats scored points but there weren't any double-figure scorers. Junior Ryan McKnight, sophomore Troy Johnson and Wilson paced the offense with six points each and Jared Rice had five points. Andy Hixson and Nick Pope scored four points apiece.

In the junior varsity game, the Cats lost their steam in the second half and lost a 46-32 contest. The Roadrunners were ahead only by one, 16-15, at intermission, but out-scored Mulvane, 30-17, in the final two quarters.

Chris Gerhardt led Mulvane's JV offense with nine points. Brian Love scored seven and both Troy Johnson and Caleb Alexander, a freshman, had six-point games.

The MHS boys will be off until their first home game Tuesday night, Jan. 4, when Clearwater comes to town.

## Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

### DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Clearwater	1	0	2	2
Circle	1	0	2	3
Chaparral	1	0	2	3
Kingman	0	0	3	1
Rose Hill	0	1	4	2
Andale	0	1	2	4
Mulvane	0	1	0	5

### DIVISION I

Andover	1	0	2	2
Augusta	1	0	2	3
Matze	1	0	2	2
Goddard	0	0	4	0
Buhler	0	1	3	2
Wellington	0	1	2	3
Valley Center	0	1	1	4

### Varsity Boys

Mulvane	14	2	8	10-34
Chaparral	17	12	11	12-52
Mulvane -	Jared Rice 5, Andy Hixson 4, Ryan McKnight 6, Jason Wilson 6, Nick Pope 4, Chris Brannon 2, Troy Johnson 6, Chris Gerhardt 1. FG 14 (0), FT 6-8, F 14			
Chaparral -	Dustin Warner 14, Alan Patterson 7, Ryan McCashin 4, Adam Podschun 7, Scott Easter 7, Justin Robinson 2, Aaron Schule 12, Team 2. FG 20 (1), FT 11-16, F 13			

### Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	7	8	7	10-32
Chaparral	10	6	10	20-46
Mulvane -	Caleb Alexander 6, Troy Johnson 6, Shawn Rogers 4, Chris Gerhardt 9, Brian Love 7. FG 14 (0), FT 4-13, F 16			
Chaparral -	Scott Easter 2, Justin Robinson 10, Drew Gerber 9, Russell Giesen 6, Regan Hostetler 5, Joel Troyer 5, Craig Hadsall 2, Alan Masner 5, Chris Cox 2. FG 20 (2), FT 7-12, F 16			