

'Grinch' Gets MHS Boys Back In Winning Mood

For most of the first half, the Mulvane High School Wildcat basketball boys looked like they were in charge of things Friday night, Dec. 18, when Chaparral came to town.

Then, in the last couple of minutes before the half, it looked like Santa Claus had arrived for the visiting Roadrunners. The Cats let Chappy back in the game but came on strong in the second half to close 1998 with a 66-53 decision in their first Chisholm Trail League game of the year.

MHS Coach Todd Barker had to be the "Grinch who stole Christmas" from Chappy. He didn't burn their Christmas tree down or plug the chimney up. He just got his Wildcats straightened out.

"When we went into the locker room, I wasn't too happy," confessed Barker. "They made a run at us after we had battled to build up a nice lead in the first half. I just thought the kids went to sleep. They started playing lackadaisically, kind of like they were tired. I admit it. I got after them a little at halftime and they responded in the third quarter and took the game away from Chaparral."

Kind of like giving Rudolph, the one with the red nose, wrong directions to Chaparral, the Cat defense got after things

and shut the Roadrunners down to only six points in the third quarter. And that gave the Wildcats an opportunity to put some distance between them and Chappy. In the fourth quarter, the Wildcats stretched their lead to over 20 points before Barker gave the whole bench some playing time.

"We didn't do much different in the third quarter but it was like the kids had a fire lit under them at half," said Barker. "We weren't rebounding well and we didn't run our offense like we should have late in the half. We had a nice lead but they came back and got within two (30-28) by halftime. In the third quarter, the kids just got after them. Chaparral kind of looked a little bewildered. I don't know what it was other than the kids just turned up the intensity and that seemed to throw them off. Our kids really got after it."

Then, in the 4th quarter, Barker switched

from a man-to-man to a zone and that seemed to keep Chaparral off-balance enough to stretch it out to a 20-point margin.

"We actually played pretty good most of the first half, I thought," noted Barker, whose Wildcats will be taking a 3-2 record into the holiday break. "And that continued for about six minutes of the second quarter. Then we just started doing nothing. I think the kids just tried to maintain and protect the lead and they got it going."

Barker said he felt good about every aspect of the Cats' game except the rebounding. "They really beat us up on the boards," said Barker. "I don't know what the final figures were but they beat us there. Rebounding is something you have to do all the time, especially when you get fatigued. It's easy not to really go in there and hit the boards, but with our size, I felt like we really have to make a concentrated effort to rebound. Both Jesse (Marksberry) and Randy (Johnson) did a pretty good job and Jake (Wilkinson) contributed some, too. It's a mind set, though. You don't have to be the biggest guy out there to get the rebound. You just have to be the one who wants to get the rebound. There's a lot of heart in rebounding."

Offensively, the Wildcats had another balanced game and junior guard Nick Pope continued to flash signs of brilliance. He finished with 12 points. Johnson paced the Wildcats with a game-high 16 points and Marksberry finished with 15. Wilkinson finished with eight points and seniors Brian Dinkel and Garrett Hennes along with sophomore Ryan McKnight chipped in with four points each.

Chaparral toppled the Wildcat junior varsity boys by a 46-31 count, breaking open a tight contest by out-scoring the Cat JVs, 20-7, in the final stanza. Derek Paul paced the Cats offensively with seven points. Chris Gerhardt finished with six points, Andy Hixson scored five and Ryan McKnight had four.

Varsity Boys

Chaparral	11	17	6	19	53
Mulvane	17	13	16	20	66
Chaparral	Lance Rieke 8, Alan Patterson 9, Todd Dieker 2, A.J. Caterwood 12, Ryan Hoopes 5, Jeremy Shue 4, Lyle Redgate 3, Chris Stevens 2	FG 21 (4), FT 7-16, F 26			
Mulvane	Nick Pope 12, Brian Dinkel 4, Jake Wilkinson 8, Brian McColpin 2, Randy Johnson 16, Jesse Marksberry 15, Garrett Hennes 4, James MacKay 1, Ryan McKnight 4	FG 27 (3), FT 15 25, F 20			

Junior Varsity Boys

Chaparral	10	5	11	20	46
Mulvane	6	12	6	7	31
Chaparral	Wedman 10, Robinson 2, Hosteiler 4, Easter 3, Bollman 10, Cleveland 5, Dieker 8, Warner 4	FG 11 (0), FT 25-38, F 21			
Mulvane	Chris Brannon 2, Jason Wilson 2, Chris Gerhardt 6, Jared Rice 3, Ryan McKnight 4, Derek Paul 7, Andy Hixson 5, Jonathan Reed 2	FG 8 (0), FT 9-24, F 28			



Wildcat's Garrett Hennes (55) and Ryan McKnight (50) get up for a rebound