

Wildcat BB Boys Tamed At Home; Circle, Kingman Are Culprits

It went from "as good as it gets" to "as good as it could get" the last week for the Mulvane High School boys. And that was pretty ugly.

Coming off the first three-game winning streak under three-year coach Todd Barker, the Wildcat boys ran into what might be called solid rock—as in granite. Kingman knocked the Wildcats into an 0-3 start in the

Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Circle	2	0	6	0
Kingman	1	0	4	0
Andale	1	0	3	2
Rose Hill	1	0	2	4
Clearwater	0	1	2	3
Chaparral	0	1	2	3
Mulvane	0	3	3	3

DIVISION I

Augusta	1	0	4	0
Andover	1	0	4	1
Goddard	1	0	4	1
Maize	0	0	3	1
Andover	0	1	2	1
Wellington	0	1	0	3
Valley Center	0	1	0	5

No games until Tuesday, Jan. 6, 1998

Chisholm Trail League Division II race Friday night, Dec. 19, in the last game before the holidays. And the Eagles did it "in our house," romping to a 66-46 triumph that kept Kingman perfect (4-0) for the year.

Three nights earlier in the new MHS gym, Circle thundered past the Cats in a 73-45 stomping.

"I'd say we just saw two of the best teams in the league," said Barker. "I think Circle is probably one of the best teams I've played since I've been here. They have it all—the size, lots of talent. We played with them for a quarter but after that, their size simply took over the game. They got all the rebounds. We only had four offensive boards in the entire game and that hurt us. We had been doing fairly well in rebounding until the Circle game."

Kingman was a game that could have been a defining moment for the program. The Eagle and Wildcat seniors grew up loving to hate each other. This year's seniors were undefeated as freshmen except for a one-point loss to Kingman, and Kingman went undefeated.

The Wildcats got off to a horrid start, though, and never could get their boat righted. "It was our worst start," said Barker. "Kingman has a nice bunch of kids, but we got off to such a bad start that we dug a big hole for ourselves and never could get out of it. After the first half, we played them even but we couldn't make up any ground."

Shooting was the difference. Kingman hit its shots, the Wildcats didn't. "We couldn't get anything to fall early and they were getting their shots to fall," said Barker. "They had a very aggressive defense and we came out tentative. That created a lot of easy shots for them in the lane. We switched to a zone in the second half that that seemed to slow them down, but we just never could get our offense into the next gear."

The Cat coach said he was disappointed by the way the MHS boys came out. The

Eagles burst out to a 24-11 lead after one quarter and by half, the Kingman lead was up to 21 points, 46-25. Mulvane got that back to around 12 points in the third quarter but could get it no closer. "We started getting the ball to fall for us and got back in there but never could get it under 10 points," said Barker. "I still think we can have a pretty good offense but the last two games you couldn't tell it. We just came off playing two pretty talented teams and that led to some poor shooting by us. I don't think people will be giving up on us, though. If they do, they'll be sorry that they did. Our best games are ahead of us."

Senior Bryce Schumacher led the Wildcats with 13 points and guard Darrin Erbert finished with a 12-point game. Ryan Rogers had seven points and sophomore Jesse Marksberry tossed in six.

In the Circle contest, it was over before it began almost. The Thunderbirds, one of the top ranked 4A teams in the state, showed their stuff almost immediately. After a bucket by Schumacher just after the start of the 2nd quarter made it 20-19 in favor of Circle.

That's as good as it got. The T-Birds went on to ring up 19 consecutive points in the second quarter as their size and quickness took over. In the second and third periods, Circle out-scored the Wildcats, 42-15.

"I knew Circle was going to be good but they are head and shoulders above everybody else in the league," said Barker. "They just took care of things on the boards and that cut our offense off. Basically, they were able to do what they wanted to against us."

At intermission, Barker planned on a different strategy, a different approach—shoot the three. It didn't work much better.

"We tried to start shooting more three-pointers in the second half so that we could draw them out of their defense but we didn't make 'em. They just packed it in and made it even more difficult to do any work inside.

When you run into a team that is athletic and big and strong, you need to be able to shoot the ball well. We didn't. Having to arch the ball up and over people was difficult."

Schumacher finished with a team-high 14 points against the taller T-Birds. The only other Wildcat in double figures was Erbert with 11 points. Rob Parker had eight points and Jesse Marksberry had six.

The junior varsity Cats had a better showing. They knocked off the visiting Eagles Friday night, 53-42, and took Circle into overtime before bowing, 65-59.

Guard Brian McColpin paced the MHS jayvees with 13 points. Jake Wilkinson scored 12 points and both Tom Anderson and Randy Johnson scored eight points. In the Circle tussle, Wilkinson led four Cats in double figures with 14 points. Johnson scored 13 and both Anderson and McColpin scored 10 points.

Varsity Boys

Kingman	24	22	10	10-66
Mulvane	11	14	13	8-46
Kingman	—Nick Armour 10, Kevin Fisher 12, Josh Self 18, Dallas Hageman 12, Jonathan Storing 5, Adam Hook 4, Jordan White 5. FG 29 (5), FT 15-19, F 14.			
Mulvane	—Ryan Rogers 7, Jesse Marksberry 6, Rob Parker 4, Chad Gerwick 4, Bryce Schumacher 13, Darrin Erbert 12. FG 18 (2), FT 8-12, F 19.			

Circle	20	21	21	11-73
Mulvane	17	6	9	13-45
Circle	—Tyler Bacon 19, Jacob Cooper 18, Ryan Murphy 12, Mike Palmer 14, Brandon Hendrix 8, Mark Tucker 2. FG 33 (1), FT 6-20, F 17.			
Mulvane	—Darrin Erbert 11, Bryce Schumacher 14, Chad Gerwick 2, Dan McElroy 2, Jesse Marksberry 6, Rob Parker 8, Keene Hangrove 2. FG 18 (2), FT 7-15, F 23.			

Junior Varsity Boys

Kingman	11	8	14	9-42
Mulvane	16	10	16	11-53
Kingman	—Jordan White 6, Andy Watkins 2, Cody Young 4, Brent Neufeld 8, Dallas Hageman 4, Aaron Hook 6, Aaron Baldwin 6, Jeremy Orth 2, Clint Oraber 4. FG 18 (1), FT 5-16, F 11.			
Mulvane	—Jake Wilkinson 12, Randy Johnson 8, Brian McColpin 13, Jesse Marksberry 6, Garrett Hennes 4, Tom Anderson 8, Josh Hanson 2. FG 22 (0), FT 9-13, F 14.			

Circle	15	12	9	13 (16)-65
Mulvane	8	16	11	14 (10)-59
Circle	—Josh Casady 13, Nick Whitson 10, Jeremy Hayes 6, Brandon Hendrix 7, Travis Brundage 20, Jake Myers 4, Tony Short 2, Mark Prilliman 2, Matt Green 1. FG 24 (3), FT 14-22, F 13.			
Mulvane	—Tom Anderson 10, Brian McColpin 10, Jake Wilkinson 14, Randy Johnson 13, Garrett Hennes 6, Josh Hanson 2, Jesse Marksberry 2, Ryan Hively 2. FG 27 (1), FT 4-8, F 19.			