

Fifth Straight Loss Has Boys, Coaches Scratching Heads

Who would have predicted the Mulvane High School boys would start the year with five consecutive defeats?

Kingman dropped another lump of coal in the Wildcats' Christmas stockings Friday night, Dec. 20, with a 71-51 thrashing at Kingman. That left Coach Todd Barker's club reeling at 0-5 and 0-2 in the Chisholm Trail League as they headed into a much-needed Christmas break.

"We're sick, we're beat up. We need some time to do a gut check," admitted the second-year MHS coach. "I'm really disappointed, though. I know we're a better team than being 0-5. We're just not being consistent at all. We have some people who are not playing all the time. We have other people playing when we need them and we are still fouling too much."

Kingman took over the game early in the second quarter after the Cats had been staked to an 11-8 lead after one quarter of play. The host Eagles took the lead by intermission on a 20-10 spurt and never looked back in their 20-point win.

"They controlled the last three quarters but we did make a little run at them in the last three minutes of the game," said Barker. "It was down to a nine-point game with about three minutes to go. Then, we tried to do a couple of things and they got two or

three quick, easy buckets on us and pulled away. It wasn't a 20-point game all the way."

The Eagles won their first game of the campaign at Mulvane's expense by picking on a Mulvane weakness of the last few years—fouls. The Wildcats had too many fouls, 26 of them while Kingman was whistled for only 11. That led to the big difference of the game. Kingman went 16 of 28 at the stripe and Mulvane made two of the five it shot.

"We commit some pretty stupid fouls but I don't know that we foul that much more," said Barker. "That's the reason we've lost a couple of games. You can just look at the free throw situation. I think at times, we're trying to so hard that we commit fouls. Other times, we lose a defensive assignment and reach in trying to pick them up."

And it didn't help that the Wildcats are battling the flu, colds...you name it. "Brad Canfield was sick two days before the game and he just wasn't himself. Sean Holman got sick over there and both Chad Gerwick and Raymond Lazier are having leg problems. We basically went over to Kingman half-loaded."

And it showed. The Eagles tapped the till for another 20 points in the third period to take a 48-35 lead into the last quarter. "The free throwing came into play, that's for sure," said Barker. "You're not going to win if the opposition makes that many points at the line when time isn't running. We just have to quit fouling so much. You normally think that you'll have about the same number as the other team but I looked up on the scoreboard one time and the foul count was 10-0."

The junior Gerwick was the lone Cat in double figures. He had 10 points, senior Neil Gosch and juniors Darrin Erbert and Dan McElroy had eight points each. Lazier scored six points and Bryce Schumacher had four points. The 6-foot, 7-inch Canfield had two points.

In their Tuesday night game, Dec. 17, Circle used a big push in the last two quarters to blast the Wildcats, 64-41. Circle out-gunned Mulvane, 13-6, in the third quarter, then put the game away in the last period behind a 22-9 surge.

In that game, Gosch scored 11 points to top the MHS scoring effort. Canfield tossed in eight points, Erbert scored seven and reserve Greg Nunn had six.

Once again, the free throw line was big for the home team. Circle made 23 of 31 from the stripe. Mulvane shot only 10, making eight of them.

The Mulvane junior varsity boys suffered two losses, also. Kingman clipped the Cats, 45-25, and Circle nosed out Mulvane's jayvees, 69-65.

Doug Grow's six points highlighted the scoring for the Wildcat jayvees at Kingman. Dan McElroy scored four points and both Keene Hargrove and Ryan McCarty scored two points.

The scoring at Circle Tuesday night was more lively. McCarty and Ryan Rogers both finished in double figures with 12 and 11 points, respectively. Grow had nine points and McElroy, Schumacher and Robbie Parker scored six points each.

Barker and the Wildcats will have a week to think about getting back on track before getting back to practice Monday, Dec. 30. The week off is a state association rule. Then, the Wildcats will be trying to solve their problems in practice. It really gets tough after the first of the year, though. Mulvane will host undefeated Ardale (4-0) in their first game back Friday night, Jan. 3, before tangling with a tough Rose Hill squad on the road Tuesday, Jan. 7th.

"We're going to try and build our confidence back up with some positive motivation," emphasized Barker. "We're going to break everything down and build it back up. Our confidence is kind of shook right now and we need to build it back up and go from there. The thing that bothers me most is that I know how good we can be. I know what we can do, but I can't go out and play for them. They're the owns who have to go out and shoot the ball, get the rebound and put it back in."

"I think there's nothing wrong with this team that a win wouldn't help," added Barker. "It isn't going to be easy after Christmas, though. We have some tough games coming."

Chisholm Trail League Boys Basketball Standings

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION I

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

Last Week's Results

Kingman 71, Mulvane 51
 Rose Hill 80, Chaparral 48
 Andover 63, Buhler 57
 Circle 58, Clearwater 57
 Valley Center 50, Augusta 47
 Goddard 79, Wellington 67
 Winfield 58, Maize 30

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	11	10	14	16-51
Kingman	8	20	20	23-71

Mulvane—Chad Gerwick 10, Darrin Erbert 8, Brad Canfield 2, Neil Gosch 8, Raymond Lazier 6, Bryce Schumacher 4, Dan McElroy 8, Greg Nunn 3, Ryan Rogers 2. FG 23 (3), FT 2-5, F 26.

Kingman—Nick Armour 19, Niel McCune 6, Scott Campbell 12, Jonathan Sterling 6, Kevin Fischer 18, Andy Smith 8, Adam Hook 2. FG 25 (3), FT 16-28, F 11.

Mulvane	8	18	6	9-41
Circle	12	17	13	22-64

Mulvane—Neil Gosch 11, Brad Canfield 8, Bryce Schumacher 2, Dan McElroy 2, Greg Nunn 6, Darrin Erbert 7, Chad Gerwick 2, Sean Holman 3. FG 14 (5), FT 8-10, F 23.

Circle—Ryan Murphy 11, Mike Palmer 16, Justin Shelman 4, Jacob Cooper 7, Jared Swilley 5, Jason Swilley 2, Tony Zager 5, Travis Bacon 13, Reggie Smithson 1. FG 19 (3), FT 23-31, F 15.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	8	7	8	2-25
Kingman	20	10	8	7-45

Mulvane—Ryan McCarty 3, Doug Grow 6, Lucas Powell 1, Randy Johnson 2, Tom Anderson 2, Bryce Schumacher 2, Robbie Parker 2, Keene Hargrove 3, Dan McElroy 4. FG 8 (2), FT 3-9, F 11.

Kingman—Derec Lacio 2, John Self 4, Joey Knapic 6, Kyle Williams 5, Brent Neufeld 9, Scott Campbell 10, Dallas Hageman 11. FG 20 (1), FT 4-6, F 13.

Mulvane	17	16	15	17-65
Circle	17	17	20	15-69

Mulvane—Dan McElroy 6, Ryan Rogers 11, Robbie Parker 6, Bryce Schumacher 6, Sean Holman 2, Ryan McCarty 12, Doug Grow 9, Keene Hargrove 2, Clint Cox 4, Jake Wilkinson 2. FG 23 (2), FT 7-8, F 18.

Circle—Turner 18, Wolf 14, Corhill 2, Prillman 4, Myers 9, White 10, Cooper 12. FG 25 (0), FT 19-25, F 13.

Sophomore Boys

No games played