

An Avalanche Of 3-Pointers

Last week, everybody was buried by ice. Tuesday night, Jan. 11, the Mulvane High School boys were buried by three-pointers.

The Wildcats drove to Buhler Tuesday night for an Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League game in freezing rain but that's nothing compared to the cold reception the Crusaders gave them, dumping in 12 three-pointers and using a trapping defense that created 32 turnovers. Those factors led to an 88-27 blitz of Mulvane.

The loss dropped Coach Scott Dunham's Cats to 0-7 for the year.

"They pressured us early and often and all over the floor," said Dunham. "They are just unbelievably athletic. They simply smothered us, which caused us to take bad shots. We shot a very poor percentage again tonight."

The game was essentially over in a hurry, hardly worth the hour drive to Buhler. After the game hovered around at 7-6 for a while in the first quarter, the Crusaders turned up the pressure and raced away with a spree of more than 30 consecutive points. The Cats didn't even score in the 2nd quarter and Buhler went into halftime talk with a 40-6 lead.

It got worse in the 3rd quarter when the Crusaders out-scored Mulvane, 30-10, behind a flurry of three-pointers. The hosts knocked down 12 three-pointers. Mulvane had none.

"Buhler shot the ball accurately the whole game and their pressure kept us from getting off good shots," said Dunham. "And when we did get a good shot, we couldn't hit it. We came out for about the first half of the first quarter and had a couple of buckets. It was 7-6 at one time but they just kicked it in gear and left us behind. Suddenly, it was out of hand. They forced us to do what they wanted us to do. We could never quite be patient enough to settle down. Buhler forced us into a lot of bad decisions, and we also lost our composure."

The Crusaders, who have lost only to McPherson this season, play at a fast pace, which is a pace Dunham wants his Cats to play at, but the Crusaders had too many horses. "They play at an extremely fast tempo, which is what we want to do or would like to do, but we're just not there with them," said

Boys Varsity

Mulvane	6	0	10	11	27
Buhler	22	18	30	18	88
Mulvane	Chris Wilson 4	Mason Leonard 6	Logan Sorensen 6	Kyle Womacks 4	Ryan Herring 2
John Knight 3	Zach Thuesing 2	EG 9 (0)	ET 9 (0)	F 14	
Buhler	Upp 9	Williamson 6	Aaron Schumaker 15	Brandon Cameron 22	Coering 4
Ward 9	Rawlins 2	Gustafson 1	Beshears 3	Leonard 3	Rizzo 2
Peak 4	Beaton 8	EG 34 (12)	ET 8-10	F 13	

Mulvane Sports

34th Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic Pairings

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19

6 p.m. -- Arkansas City (3-3) vs. Mulvane (0-7)
7:45 -- Winfield (4-3) vs. Conway Springs (0-6)

THURSDAY, JAN. 20

6 p.m. -- Chaparral (2-5) vs. Mulvane
7:45 -- Conway Springs vs. Clearwater (2-5)

FRIDAY, JAN. 21

6 p.m. -- Arkansas City vs. Chaparral
7:45 -- Winfield vs. Clearwater

SATURDAY, JAN. 22

3 p.m. -- Fifth Place Game
4:45 -- Third Place Game
6:30 -- Championship game

the Cat coach. "Our effort was good. We didn't have a lot of kids who quit. We were all playing hard at the end. They just out-played us in all facets of the game."

And it didn't help the Wildcats to have been idled the last week by icy storms. Buhler played two games in the four days leading up to Tuesday night. Mulvane hasn't played since Dec. 17.

"The layoff definitely hurt us but that wasn't the biggest reason for us getting beat," said Dunham. "We had one practice in the last week and Monday's practice was one of our poorest of the season. Buhler's a strong team and they are about 10 deep, so they were throwing fresh people at us all the time. All those combinations were a bad deal for us."

Guard Logan Sorensen and insider Mason Leonard, both seniors, were the best scorers for the Cats. Both scored six points. Kyle Womacks and sophomore Chris Wilson scored four points apiece and John Knight had three points.

"We have a long ways to go," said Dunham. "We were pressured and didn't make the plays, we made bad decisions and we shot the ball poorly. Those are the biggest reasons we lost the game."

The Wildcats will be trying to get their first victory of the year when they go to Rose Hill Friday night, Jan. 14. Next week, the Cats will be in the 33rd annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic, which is down to six teams this year. The format is a double round robin. Play starts as usual on Wednesday night, Jan. 19, and the Wildcats will play against No. 1 seeded Winfield (4-3) at 7:45 p.m. on opening night.