

'Buhler's Mystique' Falls To Wildcats; '82 Last Win There

Mulvane Sports

It isn't every day something happens that hasn't happened for, say, 25 years.

The Mulvane High School boys' basketball team accomplish just such a feat Tuesday night, Jan. 9, at Buhler. The Wildcats used clutch shooting down the stretch to pull out a 69-66 win at Buhler to improve to 2-3 in AVCTL Division III, 4-4 overall.

The accomplishment? Mulvane's boys' team had not won at Buhler since Feb. 19, 1982. That's right...nearly a full quarter-century. Not even MHS' state-championship team of 1983-84 won at Buhler.

"That says something for our team and how we played," said MHS head coach Scott Dunham. "Buhler's always a tough place to play. Our guys really showed some improvement over the Augusta game. We were getting up and down the floor and getting some easy baskets in transition. We had some kids really step up and make plays. It was just a great team effort."

The Wildcats jumped out big early at Buhler, grabbing a 19-6 lead after one quarter of play. The host Crusaders fought back, cutting the lead back to 30-25 by the end of the half. By the time the third quarter was over, the score was tied at 46-46, setting the stage for a wild fourth quarter.

36th Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

Game 1 — No. 4 Mulvane (4-4) vs. No. 5 Clearwater (3-4), 6 p.m.

Game 2 — No. 1 Wellington (7-1) vs. No. 8 Chaparral (0-4), 8

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

Game 3 — No. 2 Arkansas City (6-1) vs. No. 7 Conway Springs (2-7), 6 p.m.

Game 4 — No. 3 Winfield (5-2) vs. No. 6 Kingman (2-6), 8

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

Game 5 — losers of games 1 and 2, 3 p.m.

Game 6 — losers of games 3 and 4, 4:30

Game 7 — winners of games 1 and 2, 6:30

Game 8 — winners of games 3 and 4, 8

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of games 5 and 6, 2 p.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 6, 3:30

Game 11 (Third Place)—losers of games 7 and 8, 5:30

Game 12 (First Place)—winners of games 7 and 8, 7

Mulvane opened the quarter with a 10-1 run, but Buhler came back to lead by one with just over a minute to play. Mulvane's John Knight gave the 'Cats the lead again, but Buhler scored a short time later to go ahead. Knight scored again to put Mulvane back in the lead. After a defensive stop, Dylan Donaldson made two free throws with 15 seconds left to put the 'Cats up by three. Two final three-point attempts by the Crusaders came up empty.

The Wildcats were hot from the floor, shooting a season-best 53% from the field. Mulvane made 29 shots, five of them three-pointers, and needed every last one to win the game. Buhler stayed in the game by outscoring Mulvane 22-6 from the free-throw line for the game. Mulvane out-rebounded Buhler, 29-20.

Knight was 10-for-12 from the floor and finished with a game-high 22 points, along with 10 rebounds, five blocks, two steals, and two assists. Springer made three of Mulvane's five treys, going 3-for-3 from long range, and finished with 17 points and no turnovers. The Wildcats also got seven points each from Ryan Herrig and Dylan Donaldson, six from Aaron Elston, four apiece from Brenton Higgins and Levi Hein, and two from Jordan Gosh.

"John and Tyler both came up huge for us," said Dunham. "John didn't miss from the floor in the second half, and we ran isolation plays for him on his last two baskets. Tyler did an outstanding job of handling their pressure without turning the ball over. Everybody contributed for us in some way in that game. We took high-percentage shots, we made good decisions, and we rebounded well. Hopefully, we can use this as a springboard for the rest of the season."

After over a week off, the Wildcats played their opening game of the Roadrunner Invitational at Chaparral High School Wednesday night, Jan. 17. The #4-seeded Wildcats faced #5 seed Clearwater. The result was not available by press time.

A Wildcat victory would put Mulvane in the semifinal round Friday night, Jan. 19, against the winner of the Wellington-Chaparral game at 6:30 p.m. A loss would put the Wildcats into the consolation bracket, in which they would face the Wellington-Chaparral loser at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Varsity Boys

Mulvane 19 11 36 23-49

Buhler 6 19 21 20-46

Mulvane—Tyler Springer 17, Ryan Herrig 7, John Knight 22, Dylan Donaldson 7, Levi Hein 4, Brenton Higgins 4, Aaron Elston 6, Jordan Gosh 2. FG 29 (5), FT 4-12.

Buhler—Schaefer 9, Jeremy Sileo 8, Cody Boone 15, Reed Patrick 18, Curwin 1, Wiedel 2, Brethren 4, Ray 6, Holman 3. FG 22 (8), FT 22-28.