

Poor Percent Mounts Up

It's not a new problem. It's not even an unusual problem. But when you can't do it, it snowballs like a chunk of snow in an avalanche.

Shooting the basketball has been a Mulvane problem for several years and the problem still haunts the Mulvane High School basketball boys.

"Believe it or not, we had only four more turnovers than Rose Hill did, and believe it or not, we had more rebounds than Rose Hill had but they have people who can put it in the basket and we're having a hard time with that now," said MHS Coach Scott Dunham.

The result: A 67-35 Rocket victory over the Wildcats Friday night, Jan. 14, in Rose Hill. The loss dropped the Mulvane record to 0-7 for the year and 0-4 start in the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League Division III this year.

"We're having a tough time putting the ball in the hole on a regular basis," said Dunham. "That's our main problem. Plus, we're not doing a very good job on the offensive boards. That's where teams can get some easy baskets and get some momentum but we're not getting that."

It was odd looking at the Wildcat huddles during time outs Friday night. Dunham huddled around his forces and three heads standing well above the huddle. Those were the heads of 6-foot, 7-inch J.D. Sorensen, 6-5 Adam Edwards and 6-3 Danny Schneider. Edwards and Sorensen are out with injuries.

"The first time we played Rose Hill (back in December), they hurt us from the three-point line so we did some things to take that away from them," emphasized Dunham. "We did a good job there Friday night but then they got the ball inside to (Dennis) Shirley on the low post and he ate us up. That's where we were kind of missing J.D. and Adam. Mason (Leonard) at 6-foot, really doesn't match up with their 6-5 kid so it created some match-up problems for us."

In the early moments, the Wildcats stood their ground at Rose Hill. With slightly more than three minutes gone in the game, the score stood at 8-6. The Rockets canned back-to-back three-pointers—their only ones of the game—and Rose Hill was on its way. "Suddenly it was 14-7 and they had all the momentum," said Dunham. "I know it sounds crazy but when their one or two shots go in and we don't keep pace by hitting some, it starts rolling on you. That was also about the time when (sophomore Chris) Wilson picked up his 2nd foul and we pulled him to the bench. He's another big kid that we didn't have in there then."

By the end of the quarter, the Rockets had built up a 20-8 lead and Mulvane was never closer. The Rockets locked things up by out-scoring Mulvane, 18-3, in the 3rd quarter and took a 36-point lead.

"You have to hit better than 33% to hang with the good teams like Rose Hill," said Dunham. "We made only 13 of 39 field shots. We're getting the shots, we're just not putting them down. Logan's probably our best shooter but he hit only 3 of 11. Kyle Womacks came in and gave us a big lift with his best game but it all gets down to hitting shots when you need them and we're struggling with that right now." Rose Hill made 28 of 51 shots.

Sorensen finished with a Cat best 10 points and Womacks scored nine points. Mason Leonard and Tyler Ruder scored six points each. Wilson never got off the ground, finishing with only two points.

"There were three things that really hurt our chances," added Dunham. "The first was inside presence, we had none," said Dunham. "It's difficult when we have only

Mulvane Sports

34th Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic Pairings

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

6-foot going up against 6-4, 6-5, 6-6. At least when we have J.D. or Adam in there, they have to shoot over them.

"The second is our lack of consistent scoring. The third is turnovers and scoring off those turnovers. We actually had only 20 turnovers but we didn't make Rose Hill pay by scoring many times off their turnovers. We created 16 turnovers and you'd think we would get 20 points off those turnovers but we didn't capitalize on them in the offensive end."

If there was any silver lining, it was at the free throw stripe where the Cats made nine of 16.

"And it doesn't help that we just played the two best teams in the league," added Dunham. "Rose Hill and Buhler will be one and two. As good as Rose Hill is, Buhler is better. I wouldn't be surprised if Buhler won (4A) state this year."

"I know the kids are as frustrated as I am trying to get our first win but they are still working hard," said Dunham. "Hopefully, we can get a couple wins this week."

The Wildcats were to have been back into action Wednesday night, Jan. 19, in the opening game of the 34th annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic. Mulvane and Arkansas City were to have met in game No. 1 of the six-team, round robin tournament. Tonight (Jan. 20), the Cats are scheduled to play at 6 p.m. against the host Roadrunners.

The final game will be Saturday and the time will be determined by tournament win-loss records.

In the JV contest at Rose Hill, Mulvane charged in the 4th quarter but fell short in a 39-36 setback. Brock Kendall topped the Wildcat scoring with 11 points, Schneider scored eight and Tyler Oblinger scored six.

Boys Varsity

Mulvane	6	11	3	15-35
Rose Hill	20	18	18	11-67

Mulvane—Kyle Womacks 9, Logan Sorensen 10, Chris Wilson 2, Mason Leonard 6, Tyler Ruder 6, team 2. FG 11 (4), FT 9-16, F 19.

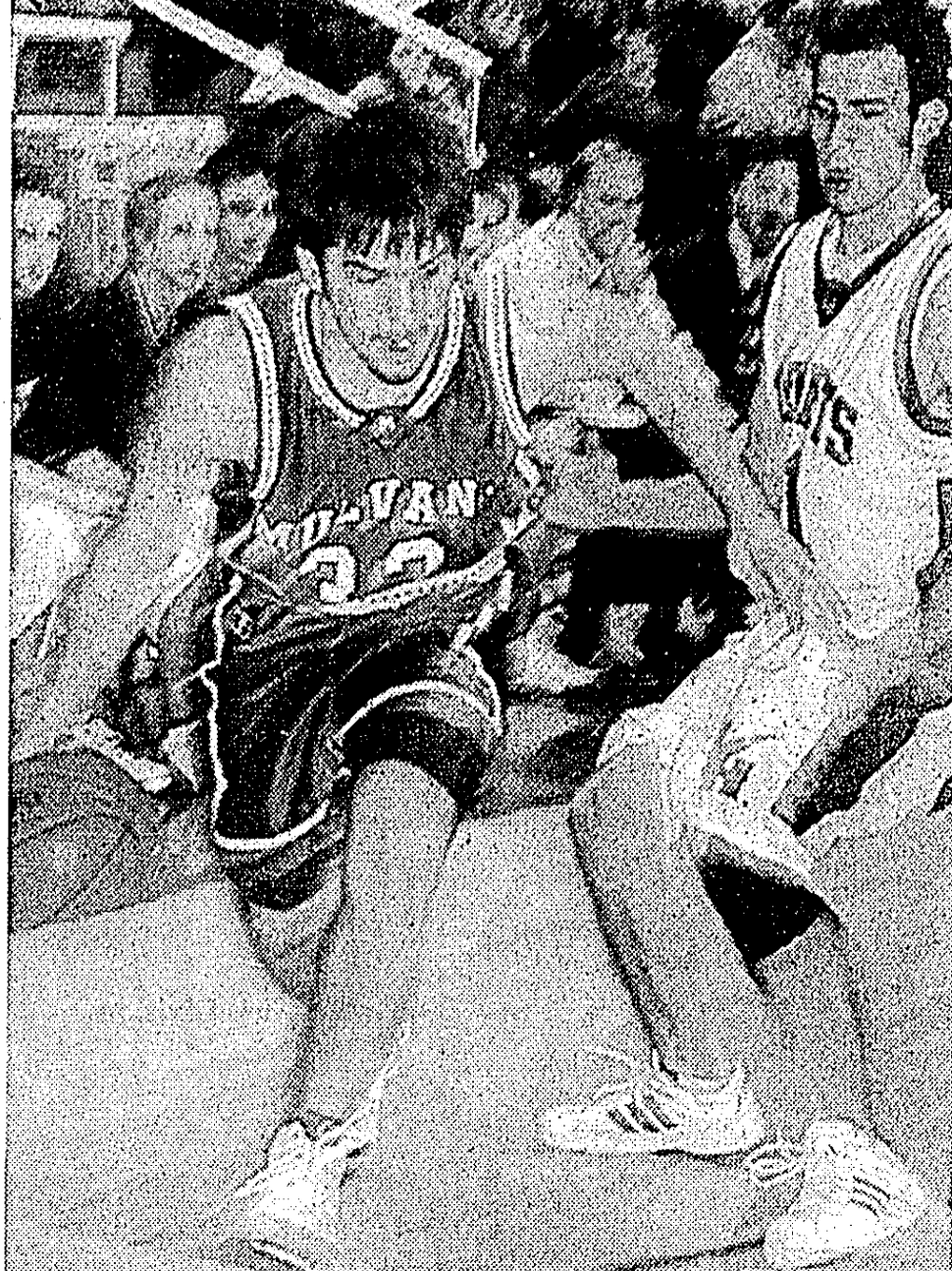
Rose Hill—Jared McRae 8, James Hensley 9, Caleb Fouse 3, Dennis Shirley 23, Trent Ubben 3, Taylor Wilson 2, Josh Shirley 9, Blake Ringwall 9, Aaron Clark 1. FG 28 (2), FT 10-16, F 18.

Junior Varsity Boys

Mulvane	7	5	11	13-36
Rose Hill	11	9	14	5-39

Mulvane—Danny Schneider 8, Syler Swaney 3, Collin Mangus 2, Tyler Oblinger 6, Brock Kendall 11, Sage Swaney 2, John Knight 2, Zach Thielsing 2. FG 14 (2), FT 6-15, F 22.

Rose Hill—Josh Hayden 2, Aaron Clark 4, Mike Smith 5, Taylor Wilson 4, Trent Ubben 6, Graham Petersen 7, Tyler Engels 2, Josh Shirley 5, Brayden Crowe, Eric Page 3. FG 13 (1), FT 12-23, F 17.



Cat guard Kyle Womacks drives for a bucket at Rose Hill