

Tournament Time For Wildcats

Cat Boys Pick Up Pace; Will Play Saturday

The recent rough winter weather has caused a few glitches in the Mulvane High School boys' basketball team's schedule. For one thing, they haven't finished with the 36th annual Roadrunner Invitational at Chaparral yet.

Most recently, the Wildcats lost in the semifinals at Chaparral Friday night, Jan. 19, to top seed Wellington, 62-50, to slip to 5-5 overall on the season. "We started out very slowly in that game," said Wildcat head coach Scott Dunham. "That's been a common theme for us this season. We didn't

actually play too badly defensively in the first quarter, but we just couldn't score. In the second quarter, we didn't play well defensively and fell too far behind. We played much better in the second half, but the hole we dug ourselves was too big."

The Wildcats were cold to start the game, falling behind 11-2 by the end of the quarter. In the second period, Mulvane was outscored 22-11, giving the Crusaders a 33-13 halftime lead. The Wildcats were able to cut the margin to 12 by the end of the third quarter, 43-31, but they wouldn't get much closer from there.

Mulvane had three players in double figures. Sophomore Jordan Gouch led Mulvane for the second straight game with 13 points, senior John Knight scored 11, and senior point guard Ryan Herrig added 10. Mulvane finished with five three-pointers but were also just 13-for-22 from the free-throw line.

The Wildcats also started slow in their first-round game against Clearwater Wednesday night, Jan. 17, but they couldn't have had a better finish. Mulvane used a 28-point fourth quarter to nip the Indians, 60-57.

"They had a size advantage on us, and they slowed the game down early," said Dunham. "We had a very poor third quarter, which is unusual for us this season. In the fourth quarter, we got some early baskets, and we were able to set up our press and force some turnovers. We used our speed and quickness to our advantage, and we made some defensive adjustments in that final quarter."

Clearwater lead 15-12 after one quarter, but Mulvane came back to take the lead by halftime, 27-23. The 'Cats went cold in the third period, allowing the Indians to take a six-point lead by the end of the quarter, 36-32. Then came the fourth quarter, in which most of the points came from Knight (13) and Gouch (eight), who each finished the game with 18 points. Sophomore Tyler Springer added 14.

The Wildcats will return to the court Friday night, Jan. 26, when they travel to Andale. The game is set to get underway at 7:30 p.m. The 'Cats will return to Chaparral to make up their third-place game against Arkansas City Sunday, Jan. 27, starting at 4:30 p.m.

36th Annual Chaparral Roadrunner Classic

Saturday, Jan. 27

THIRD PLACE

Mulvane vs. Arkansas City, 4:30 p.m.

FIRST PLACE

Winfield vs. Wellington, 6 p.m.

FIFTH PLACE

Kingman vs. Chaparral, 2:30 p.m.

SEVENTH PLACE

Clearwater vs. Conway Springs, will make up on

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 2 11 18 19-50

Wellington 11 22 10 19-62

Mulvane—Ryan Herrig 10, Dylan Donaldson 2, Aaron Elliott 4, Tyler Springer 2, Andrew Myers 1, Jordan Gouch 13, John Knight 11, Levi Hein 7. PG 16 (S, FT 13-22, F 21.

Wellington—Treston Rain 22, Ben Heasty 15, Tanner Ybarra 4, Hefley 10, Ty Ybarra 5, Matt Stokup 2, Coated 4. PG 23 (S, FT 15-26, F 23.

Winfield 76, Arkansas City 64

Chaparral 36, Clearwater 46

Kingman 53, Conway Springs 34

FIRST ROUND

Clearwater 15 8 13 19-27

Mulvane 12 15 5 28-60

Clearwater—Cody Rasmussen 8, Wynn 9, Hickey 2, Lalo Bryan 17, Collins Rasmussen 13, Walter 3, Lalo 5. PG 20 (S, FT 13-24, F 24.

Mulvane—Jordan Gouch 18, Brandon Higgins 3, Tyler Springer 14, Dylan Donaldson 2, Ryan Herrig 3, John Knight 18, Andrew Myers 2. PG 23 (S, FT 11-21, F 27.

Wellington 81, Chaparral 57

Arkansas City 62, Conway Springs 47

Winfield 68, Kingman 62