

Lose To Circle

MHS Racks Up One In Chappy Tourney

The Mulvane High School boys ended one streak but continued another during the 34th annual Chaparral Roadrunner Boys Classic.

The Cat boys ended their skid to start the season at nine games by licking the host Roadrunners, 70-58, in the second round Thursday night, Jan. 20. Two nights later, the Wildcats were back to old habits and were blasted by Conway Springs, 74-53, in the game for third place.

The Wildcats played Arkansas City in the revamped tournament's first game Wednesday night, Jan. 19, and got bombed, 74-53.

Coach Scott Dunham's MHS boys ended their losing string after nine games and handed new coach Dunham his first high school victory against Chappy. But things went quickly back to normal playing for 3rd place. Shooting woes drug the team down.

"We just shot very poorly and that's something that has plagued us all season, but more than that, Conway Springs put five kids on the floor who were energetic, athletic and fired up to win a ball game. We played a really listless game with little energy. I really thought going into that game that we could get our second win in a row, but we were always a step slow on defense and they just out-worked us on offense."

From that standpoint, it was disappointing for Dunham, especially considering Conway came into the tournament as the lowest seed and without a victory.

"We wanted to pressure them all over the court without fouling," said Dunham. Instead, all we did was foul them. You're not going to win any games with the other team shooting 38 times from the free throw line. The Cardinals made only 19 of 38 at the stripe but the 19 represented 14 more points than the Cats got at the stripe.

"That was as poorly as we've played all season," said Dunham. "We had our chances but we couldn't put the ball in the hole. Between our big guys inside, we went 1-for-16. When you get near the basket, you have to make those shots."

The Cardinals walked out to an 18-9 lead in the first quarter, then outscored the Cats, 37-17, in the final half. Mulvane finished under 38% from the field.

The only bright spot was the play of senior guard Logan Sorensen, who appears to have his shooting eye back. He finished with 20 points, the only Mulvane player in double figures. John Knight had six points and Tyler Ruder scored five.

It was a whole different game against the Roadrunners. The Wildcats hit 55% from the field, and 8 of 12 from beyond the arc, making eight of 12 threes, and that set the stage for their first victory.

"We hit some big three pointers early and that gave us the early momentum," said Dunham. "Plus, we had 16 steals in that game, we out-boarded them and we played better. All three of our guards were in double figures, and it was our best game of the season, really. And Chris Wilson gave us a ton of energy on defense."

Mulvane never trailed after grabbing a 37-30 halftime lead.

Logan Sorensen finished with a season-best 22 points. Tyler Ruder had 14, his best this season, and freshman Dylan Donaldson scored 11 in his 2nd game up with the varsity.

One wondered how long it would take for Dunham to give him a try. Although under-sized, Donaldson can shoot the ball and handle the ball, two areas where the Cats have been struggling all season long.

Mulvane's inside game was led by senior J.D. Sorensen with eight points, Kyle Womacks with seven and Wilson with six.

"It was a much needed win, I'll tell you," said Dunham. A big part of it was shooting. When you're shooting good, your confidence level is up and you are able to withstand runs by the other team because you can make baskets, too."

The Wildcats played the first game in the tournament, which was cut to only six teams this year for the first time ever. The teams played two pools of round robin with the pool winners playing for first place.

"We really played good ball against Ark City, we just couldn't make our shots," said Dunham. "We matched their game but they shot the ball and we didn't."

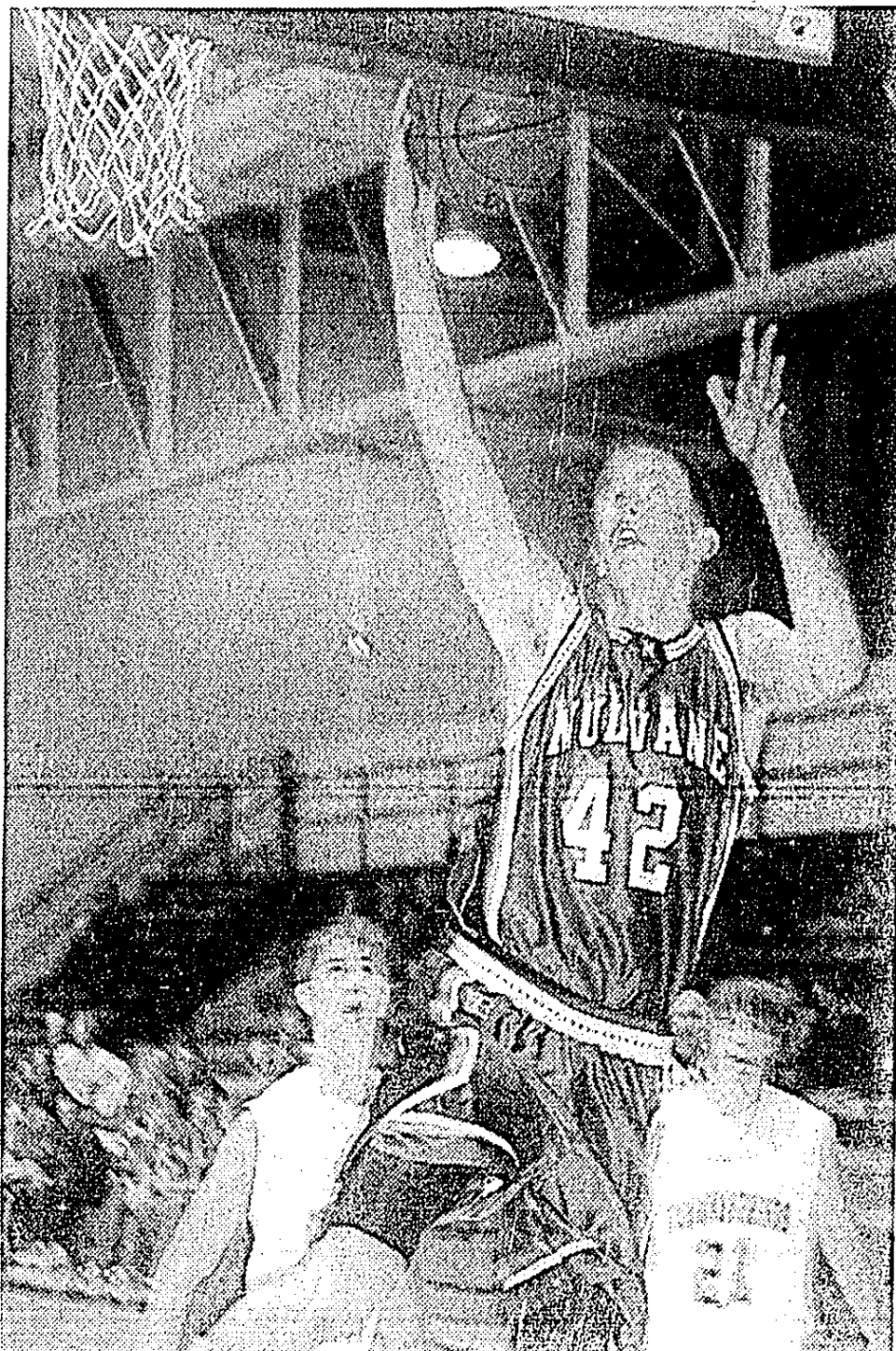
Ark City buried 10 of 12 from three-point land and that seemed to give the Bulldogs the momentum.

J.D. Sorensen had his best outing in the tourney, scoring 18 points with cousin Logan right behind with 16. John Knight finished with eight points and Donaldson scored five. Ryan Herring and Wilson scored four points each.

The Wildcats jumped back into regular games Tuesday night, Jan. 25, and found out why Circle is so tough at home. The Thunderbirds raced past the Cats, 78-56, after starting with a 31-14 run in the opening quarter.

Logan Sorensen continued his hot streak with a team-best 19 points. Ruder scored 14 points and inside, the Wildcats had eight points from J.D. Sorensen and another six from Adam Edwards.

Friday, Jan. 28, the Cats will entertain Augusta in a make-up game stemming from the ice storms earlier in January.



Mulvane's Chris Wilson (42) banks in a bucket against Conway Springs

34th Chaparral Roadrunners Boys Basketball Classic

THIRD PLACE

Mulvane 9 17 12 5-43
 Conway Springs 18 19 24 13-74
 Mulvane—Chris Wilson 7, Logan Sorensen 17, Tyler Ruder 5, Mason Leonard 1, Ryan Herring 2, J.D. Sorensen 2, John Knight 6, Adam Edwards 1 FG 18 (2), FT 5-11, F 29

Conway Springs—Matt Gerber 9, Darrin Rasmussen 10, Matt Pauley 1, B.J. Linn 13, Scott Pauly 1, Talan Shinn 14, Dan Kibbe 2, Brody Helm 15, Brock Devlin 9 FG 26 (3), FT 19-38, F 14

FIRST PLACE

Winfield 49, Arkansas City 46

FIFTH PLACE

Chaparral 58, Clearwater 52

THIRD ROUND

Arkansas City 69, Chaparral 45

Winfield 70, Clearwater 47

SECOND ROUND

Mulvane 17 20 17 16-70
 Chaparral 16 14 13 15-58
 Mulvane—Logan Sorensen 22, John Knight 2, Kyle Womacks 7, Tyler Ruder 14, J.D. Sorensen 8, Dylan Donaldson 11, Chris Wilson 6 FG 24 (8), FT 14-19, F 17

Chaparral—Danny McCartney 5, Isaac Shue 15, Brandon Fox 2, Ryan Henson 3, Tyler Ferguson 21, Brett Corderman 12 FG 21 (4), FT 12-15, F 22

Conway Springs 65, Clearwater 60

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 18 11 21 7-57
 Arkansas City 25 25 20 14-84
 Mulvane—J.D. Sorensen 18, Ryan Herring 4, Chris Wilson 4, Logan Sorensen 16, John Knight 8, Dylan Donaldson 5, Sage Swaney 2 FG 24 (6), FT 3-4, F 15

Arkansas City—Noah Smithson 5, Matt Osterthun 9, Jorge Espino 32, Marcus Bertelsen 18, Sean Waugh 2, Eric Swanson 2, Tyler Blevins 4, Schylur Watson 4, Nathan Brown 8 FG 32 (12), FT 8-12, F 11

Winfield 62, Conway Springs 48

Varsity Boys

Mulvane 14 9 15 18-56
 Circle 31 19 16 12-78

Mulvane—Tyler Ruder 14, J.D. Sorensen 8, Kyle Womacks 2, Logan Sorensen 19, Dylan Donaldson 2, Chris Wilson 2, Ryan Herring 1, Adam Edwards 6, John Knight 2 FG 19 (6), FT 12-14, F 16

Circle—Duethman 10, Pyle 15, Atchison 2, Harstine 11, Calderera 3, Yener 14, Berry 2, Walthers 2, Mills 5, Gibson 9, Wood 5 FG 33 (4), FT 8-12, F 15

AVCT League Boys Basketball Standings

Division III

Team	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	5	0	9	2
Rose Hill	4	1	9	3
Wellington	3	2	5	7
Augusta	1	3	5	7
El Dorado	1	4	4	6
Mulvane	0	4	1	11

Division IV

Kingman	2	0	5	4
Andover Central	4	1	9	2
Andover	3	1	6	3
Circle	1	1	7	2
Clearwater	1	3	2	9
Andale	0	4	4	8

Games Friday, Jan. 28

Augusta at Mulvane
 Rose Hill at Clearwater
 Buhler at Andover
 El Dorado at Andover Central
 Wellington at Kingman