

# Cat/Viking Tussle Worth The Wait

The Mulvane High School boys' basketball team was supposed to host Winfield in their season opener, but bad weather conditions moved it to Tuesday night, Jan. 30. Excitement-wise, it was worth the long wait. Result-wise...maybe not so much.

The Wildcats led by 12 at halftime, but the visiting Vikings rallied to send the game to overtime, where they prevailed, 75-72. It was Mulvane's third straight loss, dropping them to 5-8 overall on the season.

Mulvane led 16-14 by the end of the first quarter, and they went on a run in the second quarter to extend the lead to as much as 14 points, eventually leading 39-27 at the half. By the end of the third quarter, though, the lead had disappeared, although Ryan Herrig's basket gave the 'Cats a 58-56 lead going to the final quarter.

In the final quarter, the lead traded hands more than once. The Wildcats had the ball last in regulation, but their final chance came up empty. Late in the overtime period, the 'Cats forced a turnover and had a chance down by one point, but their final shot bounced off the rim, and two Winfield free throws with 0.2 seconds left provided the final margin.

Jordan Gosch made five three-pointers and finished with a game-high 19 points for Mulvane. The 'Cats also got 12 each from John Knight and Levi Hein, eight from Brenton Higgins, seven from Herrig, and six from Dylan Donaldson. The 'Cats made eight three-pointers and went 18-for-26 from the line.

Mulvane finished up at the Chaparral Roadrunner Invitational Saturday, Jan. 27, one week later than originally scheduled. The fourth-seeded 'Cats hung with #2 seed Arkansas City for 32 minutes but just came up short, 71-68, as Mulvane finished fourth.

"We played Ark City pretty tough," said MHS head coach Scott Dunham. "Our biggest problem in the first half was that we gave up too many transition baskets. We played better defensively in the second half, and we were right there at the end, but we missed a couple free throws late, and we had a couple of costly turnovers. Ark City's about as athletic an opponent as we've had all season. We just couldn't make that one last run we needed to win."

Both teams traded baskets in the first quarter, with the Bulldogs eventually taking a slim 15-13 lead by the end of the period. Both teams picked up the offense in the second quarter. Ark City opened an 11-point lead, but Mulvane chipped away and got the lead back down to five by halftime, 40-35.

In the second half, every time Ark City tried to pull away, the 'Cats would go on a run. Mulvane stayed in the game by going 23-for-32 from the free-throw line and by hitting seven three-pointers for the game. The Bulldogs scored just enough to keep Mulvane at bay, and Jordan Gosch's off-balance trey at the buzzer left the Wildcats three points short.

Gosch scored in double figures in all three tournament games and led the Wildcats with 17 points against Ark City, one of four 'Cats in double figures. Tyler Springer had 14 points for Mulvane, Ryan Herrig scored 13, and John Knight added 12. Knight, the only Wildcat voted to the All-Tournament Team, also scored in double figures in all three tournament games.

The Wildcats started badly at Andale Friday night, Jan. 26, and were never able to make up the difference. Mulvane had won at Andale in early December, but the return trip was not nearly as successful. The host Indians jumped out to an early 16-point lead and went on to defeat the Wildcats, 72-52.

The 'Cats were swimming upstream from the beginning. By the end of the first quarter, Andale had taken a 20-4 lead. By halftime, the Indians had extended the margin to 41-20. The Wildcats played the Indians even in the second half, but Mulvane was never able to cut the lead down to single digits.

"We had a very poor effort defensively," said Dunham. "Andale scored a lot of easy baskets early off their transition game, and we just couldn't seem to stop it. They drove to the basket and either scored a layup or kicked it outside for a three. We also weren't very aggressive ourselves on offense. It was just a bad night all the way around."

Three Wildcats scored in double figures at Andale. Springer and Levi Hein each scored 11 points while Herrig added 10.

## Varsity Boys

Winfield	14	13	29	11	(8)--75
Mulvane	16	23	19	9	(5)--72

Winfield—Carlos Sotelo 15, Chris Deiter 2, Josh Groene 3, Jackson Mair 4, Quinton Hoover 9, Philip Anderson 14, Brandon Tadmair 18, Grant Heithaus 8, Jacob Love 2. FG 27 (5), FT 16-22.

Mulvane—Brenton Higgins 8, Tyler Springer 3, Ryan Herrig 7, Andrew Myers 2, John Knight 12, Dylan Donaldson 6, Levi Hein 12, Jordan Gosch 19, Quinton Smith 3. FG 23 (8), FT 18-26.

Mulvane	4	16	16	16	--52
Andale	20	21	16	15	--72

Mulvane—Brenton Higgins 5, Tyler Springer 11, Ryan Herrig 10, John Knight 7, Dylan Donaldson 2, Jacob Snider 1, Levi Hein 11, Jordan Gosch 4, Quinton Smith 1. FG 19 (3), FT 11-17.

Andale—Lucas Hein 5, Ethan Ungler 4, Gavin Martin 10, Brett Macari 18, Marcus Spruak 9, Weston Mills 3, Michael Hornbeck 18, Erik S. FG 28 (3), FT 13-19.

## Chaparral Roadrunner Classic

### THIRD PLACE

Arkansas City	13	23	11	20	--71
Mulvane	13	22	12	21	--68

Arkansas City—Michael Suard 5, Jordan Fields 12, Cole Lecher 24, Darren Miller 13, Toby Wright 4, Cole Hanzish 5, Jerrad Cotic 6, Josh Nelson 2. FG 29 (2), FT 11-26.

Mulvane—Brenton Higgins 3, Tyler Springer 14, Ryan Herrig 13, Andrew Myers 2, John Knight 12, Dylan Donaldson 5, Levi Hein 2, Jordan Gosch 17. FG 19 (7), FT 23-32.

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Winfield 68, Wellington 59 (OT)
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### FIFTH PLACE

Kingman 67, Chaparral 43
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### SEVENTH PLACE

Conway Springs 56, Clearwater 42
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Mulvane also got seven points from Knight, five from Brenton Higgins, four from Gosch, two from Dylan Donaldson, and one each from Quinton Smith and Jacob Snider. The Wildcats will host Wellington Friday night, Feb. 2, starting at 7:30 p.m.