

Cat Boys Stop Attacking

It's like reading the same chapter in a book over and over again.

Coach Scott Dunham sees the same problems game after game: a poor shooting, too many turnovers, an offense that doesn't always attack. It is not one, it's the other.

The Mulvane High School boys got off to a quick start Friday night, Jan. 28, in a make-up game at home against Augusta. But in the end, it was either "a," "b," or "c" that eventually soured the game for the Wildcats. Augusta rolled to a 55-40 verdict in a Chisholm Trail League Division III game.

"It was kind of the same old story," said Dunham. "We turned the ball over 22 times. Many of those occurred in our half-court offense. They were passes that hit hands and we didn't catch them. We probably had 10 of those types of turnovers. The ball would have been in the paint those times, too, but instead Augusta takes it the other way."

"We also didn't shoot the ball very well," added Dunham. "We had 24 shots inside 10 feet and made only 11 of them. Overall, we didn't shoot the ball that well."

Still, the biggest headache for Dunham's Wildcats was an offense that stopped attacking late in the game and that allowed the Orioles to pull away at the most critical time of the contest.

"The turnovers were the biggest factor, the poor shooting wasn't the biggest factor, what was, though, was our lack of aggressiveness offensively in the third and fourth quarters. That's when the game was still on the line. We played soft on offense. They switched defenses and extended their 3-2 zone out and we just didn't attack it very well."

That enabled the Orioles to add to their lead by out-scoring Mulvane, 28-10, in the last half.

"We let them push us out on the floor and seemed happy to just pass the ball around," said Dunham. "We got kind of lethargic, kind of content to just move it around the perimeter and never look inside to penetrate with the dribble. We went about five or six minutes there when we weren't attacking. Up to that point, the game could have gone either way."

Boys Varsity

Augusta	8	19	13	15	55
Mulvane	10	12	10	8	40
Augusta	Derek Anglemyer 4, Kirby Nickel 11, Bryce Simon 8, Brett Kenyon 14, Joe Habtyger 5, Tyler Nordman 5, Caleb Pazzie 7, Cole Hancock 1. FG 23 (3), FT 6-9, F 11				
Mulvane	Adam Edwards 6, Kyle Womacks 1, John Knight 6, Logan Sorensen 11, J.D. Sorensen 6, Chris Wilson 4, Tyler Ruder 3, Dylan Donaldson 3. FG 17 (3), FT 3-7, F 12				

Instead, Augusta was the one making buckets and adding to its lead.

"All it would have taken was for someone to hit the high post and they would have collapsed in, but I think we were kind of gun-shy because our big kids weren't catching the ball well."

Senior guard Logan Sorensen led the Wildcats with 11 points and John Knight, 6-6 Adam Edwards and 6-7 J.D. Sorensen scored six points each. Chris Wilson finished with four and Tyler Ruder and Dylan Donaldson had three each.

"Our game play was to try and go inside with our big kids but I think our inexperience inside hurt us," said Dunham. "Honestly, I think we've played only five or six teams that had kids who could stop our big kids if they went to the basket. We just lack confidence to square up and make things happen."

The loss dropped Mulvane's record to 1-12 this season but Dunham wasn't discouraged. There were some bright spots on the

floor for the Cats.

"One of our bright spots was Chris Wilson, I think he is really improving," said Dunham. "He is getting more confident but he's inconsistent. We have a lot of players like that. J.D. Sorensen has had some 20-point nights and some where he only had two or three buckets, like Friday night."

"I really don't know what the answer is other than when they get the ball, they have to have the mentality that 'I'm going to the basket until somebody stops me.' They have to be more assertive. It's not like they haven't been told a hundred times in practice. It comes with confidence and confidence comes with experience."

Dunham said another bright spot was improved play from the junior Knight. "He had one of his better games of the year," said Dunham. "He played better defensively and finished around the basket. He's athletic enough that I think he can take anybody to the basket and score. I think you'll see his scoring improve down the stretch."

The Wildcat coach also felt the Cats played well defensively. Mulvane forced Augusta into 17 turnovers.

"I liked the way Ruder played defense, he did a good job of pressuring their guards," pointed out Dunham. "The key, though, was not being aggressive on offense."

The MHS boys will get a chance to get aggressive Friday night, Feb. 4, when Clearwater's Indians come to town. The Indians are 2-11 on the season.

AVCT League Boys Basketball Standings

Division III

Team	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	5	0	11	2
Rose Hill	4	1	10	4
Wellington	3	2	5	8
Augusta	2	3	6	7
El Dorado	1	4	4	8
Mulvane	0	5	1	12

Division IV

Andover Central	4	1	11	2
Circle	3	1	10	2
Andover	3	1	7	4
Kingman	3	2	7	5
Clearwater	1	4	2	11
Andale	0	5	4	9

Games Friday, Feb. 4

Clearwater at Mulvane
 Andover at Augusta
 Andover Central at Collegiate
 Kingman at Buhler
 Circle at Wellington
 Andale at El Dorado

Games Tuesday, Feb. 8

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