

Early Struggles Hurt; Cats Finding Offense

The Mulvane High School boys never could dig their way out of a 10-point hole created in the first quarter and went down for the 14th time in 15 games Tuesday night, Feb. 8, at Kingman.

But Coach Scott Dunham's club found there was offense after all left in the line-up in the first game since losing leading scorer Logan Sorensen with an injury. Kingman won the game, 64-47, but Dunham may have won the minds of the Wildcat players.

Three players stepped forward with season-high scoring to keep the Cats in the game. Junior Kyle Womacks finished with 13 points, freshman Dylan Donaldson hit his season-high, 12 points, and lanky Adam Edwards scored eight points.

John Knight and J.D. Sorensen were next in the scoring chart, scoring four points apiece.

"We came out and struggled early, got behind by about 10 points, but we played them even the rest of the way until the last few minutes when we were trying to crawl back in it," said Coach Dunham. "We had a different group in there because of all of our injuries and we were wondering where our scoring was going to come from. I think we found out tonight."

Womacks stepped it up, Donaldson became more of the offensive threat he can be and Edwards was a force inside.

"The real difference in the game was we

couldn't hit some easy shots in the paint," said Coach Dunham. "We had 20 shots inside 10 feet and hit only eight of them. Seven of those came in the first quarter when we fell behind so badly. If we could have finished those shots, it would have been a whole different ball game."

Dunham praised the defensive effort by Mulvane. "I thought we played twice as hard tonight as we did against Clearwater," said the Cat coach. "I really thought our kids out-hustled Kingman. I don't think Kingman ever felt comfortable the whole game."

The Eagles maintained that 10-point lead much of the game and finally put it away late when the Cats started fouling and taking more chances on defense in an effort to cut into the Eagle lead.

"It all goes back to what's been our problem all year, shooting," said Dunham. "We shot only 36% from the field and we have to do better, we can do better," said Dunham. "We played with great effort and we had the bright spots from Womacks, Donaldson and Edwards. Now we just need to put it all together for a game."

It's starting to look an awful lot like a "M.A.S.H." re-run around the Mulvane High School boys basketball practices.

More than half the players who started games earlier this year for Coach Dunham, are on the sidelines with casts or other medical paraphernalia on.

It was a bad week for Dunham's troopers, who lost guard Ken Herrig in a traffic accident and Chris Wilson in a practice mishap earlier in the week. To top it off, Mulvane's top scorer, Logan Sorensen, went down with a knee injury in the first three minutes of the game Friday night, Feb.

Varsity Boys				
Mulvane	6	13	14	14—47
Kingman	16	14	18	16—64
Mulvane—	Kyle Womacks 13, Dylan Donaldson 12, Adam Edwards 8, John Knight 4, J.D. Sorensen 4, Mason Leonard 3, Sage Swaney 3 FG 15 (4), FT 13-20, F 16.			
Kingman—	Miller 19, Bales 11, Hageman 10, Adelhardt 9, Hartley 8, Blackwell 4, Dodge 2, White 1 FG 26-58 (6), FT 6-11, F 15			

Clearwater	19	20	13	18—70
Mulvane	12	10	7	21—50
Clearwater—	Nic Youngers 11, Josh Gerlach 4, Mark Bailey 31, Colin Smothers 2, Kyle Parsons 2, Logan Mills 9, Luke Bryant 3, Mitch Woods 2, Cody Shaver 0, Nathan Riggins 2 FG 29 (3), FT 9-13, F 19			
Mulvane—	Tyler Ruder 9, John Knight 8, Mason Leonard 7, Adam Edwards 7, Sage Swaney 4, J.D. Sorensen 11, Jon Cross 2, Kyle Womacks 2 FG 16 (2), FT 16-26, F 17			

Junior Varsity Boys				
Clearwater	9	15	5	14—43
Mulvane	3	17	17	12—49
Clearwater—	David York 9, Mark Westbrook 1, Luke Bryant 15, Aaron Cherney 4, James Conrad 4, Mitch Woods 4, Aaron Bell 3 FG 14 (1), FT 13-24, F 17			
Mulvane—	Syler Swaney 2, Sage Swaney 15, Collin Mangus 4, Danny Schneider 3, Kyle Womacks 3, Dylan Donaldson 4, Tyler Oblinger 8, Brock Kendall 7, Greg Simon 3 FG 16 (4), FT 13-28, F 19			

4, against Clearwater

Forget about the game plan.

The visiting Indians didn't call any ambulances to the scene, they just pulled quickly away from the luck-less Wildcats for a 70-50 victory. It was Clearwater's 3rd win of the season.

"This is an experienced group to begin with but to lose three starters in one week is just a tough, tough deal," said Coach Dunham. "We had some serious chemistry problems on the floor after Logan went down. We were basically playing with only one of our original starters out there and everything just went bad."

The Cats were pressuring because Clearwater was taking the early lead when Sorensen collapsed on the sideline next to the MHS bench. The knee injury will end his basketball season. Earlier in the week, Herrig was involved in an auto accident which led to surgery on his nose and in a practice, Wilson fractured his thumb. All three are finished for the year.

"Coach (Steve) Nelson and Coach (Gregg) Wolgast were running through the team and made a list of kids who haven't been injured and there are only four kids," said Dunham. "We knew it was going to be a tough year anyway with all of our inexperience, but this makes it even tougher."

Clearwater just pulled away and rather quickly, too. By halftime, the visitors had a 39-22 lead as the Cats struggled to find an offensive sparkplug and senior leadership with Sorensen in the trainer's room.

The Cats couldn't contain Clearwater's Mark Bailey, who poured in 31 points. "We had his number circled on the board before the game," noted Dunham. "We thought John Knight could defend him but he got into foul trouble. Our other two best athletes, Logan and Chris, were on the bench with injuries and we couldn't find an answer for him. Once he got started, we couldn't stop him."

Dunham did feel there were several Wildcats who played well in a 20-point loss to a 3-11 team that finished dead last in the Chaparral Roadrunner Classic two weeks ago. Mulvane battled for 5th place there.

"Sage Swaney wasn't expected to play varsity minutes but he came in and gave us some good time, and Kyle Womacks gave us some good minutes, too," said Dunham. "(Freshman) Dylan Donaldson was out-sized out there but came in and played hard. There just wasn't any chemistry offensively and that's when bad things happen."

Dunham also singled out 6-6 junior Adam Edwards and 6-1 Mason Leonard inside the paint. "I thought both those guys played hard," said the Cat coach. "Between them, they got 14 points and 14 rebounds."

J.D. Sorensen led the Wildcats offensively with 11 points and Edwards and Leonard scored seven apiece. Guard Tyler Ruder finished with nine points and Knight scored eight.

Mulvane out-scored the Indians, 17-5, in the 3rd quarter of the junior varsity game and held out for a 49-43 victory in the JV game Friday night. Three-pointers by Brock Kendall and Greg Simon fueled that 3rd quarter uprising. Sage Swaney finished with a season-high 15 points, Tyler Oblinger scored eight and Kendall finished with seven for the Cat jayvees.

Mulvane's Winter Homecoming is next, too. The Cats will host El Dorado's Wildcats Friday night, Feb. 11, hoping to find something to hang onto.