

# Root Of All Pain: Shooting

Poor shooting continued to be the root of all pain for the Mulvane High School boys.

Coach Scott Dunham outlined the Wildcats' 55-45 loss Tuesday night, Feb. 15, at Wellington in just a couple of words: "Poor shooting."

"Our shooting has drug us down all season long," said Dunham after the ball game. "We continue to settle for a jump shot when people come up and pressure us instead of reversing the ball. It's just a matter of putting the ball in the basket. Every other statistic has the teams pretty even except for shooting. We had just as many shots as they did but they made more than we did."

The game was tight most of the way. The Crusaders were ahead, 29-22, and got some separation at the start of the third quarter by making a 8-2 run, expanding their lead to 13, but the Cats battled back and eventually cut it to eight on reserve Brock Kendall's three-pointer late in the game. "We had a chance to cut it to six but we missed a shot from the block, then missed three straight put-back attempts. We just can't seem to get over the hump."

The Crusaders pulled away in the last couple of minutes by hitting their free throws and making the Cats pay when they took chances on defense.

"One of the good things is we have seen steady improvement despite all the injuries we've had," observed the first-year Wildcat coach. "Adam Edwards has show good improvement and has really become our biggest threat inside. He has led our post players in scoring in each of the last four or

five games, so I'm pretty proud of him.

"And you can look at the results on return games. Wellington beat us by 19 earlier this year in Mulvane but we lost by only 10 in Wellington and that was without three kids who were starters earlier but are out with injuries now. You can see the same thing in our previous game. That's encouraging for all of us.

"The nice thing is we have a lot of young kids who are going to get better next year and in a couple of years, we're going to have a chance to be very good if things keep going," said Dunham.

The 6-6 junior Edwards hit a career-high 16 points. Guard Tyler Ruder scored 11 points, seniors Mason Leonard and J.D. Sorensen scored four points apiece and both freshman Dylan Donaldson and Kendall chipped in with three points.

The Cats have three more games prior to the Wellington Class 4A Sub-State and they end the season with the usual Thursday night game Feb. 24 at home against Rose Hill.

The MHS boys put together a nearly complete game Friday night, Feb. 12. It was Winter Homecoming but there was one thing missing.

A victory.

El Dorado came to town and dished out a 53-43 loss to the host Wildcats. And if there is any consolation in statistics, Mulvane's boys won the statistical war. They just didn't win the scoreboard war.

"I thought we played okay Friday night but we obviously didn't play good enough

## Wellington 4A Sub-State Basketball Assignments

SUB-STATE STARTS MONDAY, FEB. 28

Mulvane, Wellington, Rose Hill, Andover Central, Kingman, Clearwater, Belle Plaine, Douglass

### Boys Varsity

Mulvane	12	10	9	14-45
Wellington	12	17	18	8-55
Mulvane--Adam Edwards 16, Tyler Ruder 11, Mason Leonard 4, J.D. Sorensen 4, Dylan Donaldson 3, Brock Kendall 3, John Knight 2, Kyle Womacks 2, FG 18-51 (3), FT 12-20, F 10.				
Wellington--Lars White 20, John Heath 19, Matt Lira 5, Tanner Ybarra 5, Calder Cody 2, Kerby Hefley 2, Jarrod Springer 2, FG 25-52 (2), FT 7-10, F 13				
El Dorado	11	11	16	15-53
Mulvane	9	11	9	14-43
El Dorado--Brian Campbell 7, Landon Bryan 7, Alex Ward 2, Dustin Ingalls 15, Jake Currier 6, Roger Nightengale 10, C D Mathews 6, FG 20 (4), FT 9-23, F 15				
Mulvane--Kyle Womacks 17, Tyler Ruder 4, Adam Edwards 9, Sage Swaney 2, Mason Leonard 4, John Knight 1, J.D. Sorensen 4, Dylan Donaldson 3, FG 17 (3), FT 6-13, F 19				

to win the game," said Coach Dunham. "Nobody's satisfied with that but I think we're playing better than we did earlier. We played El Dorado closer Friday night with three of our starters gone than we did earlier in the year, so I think that shows we're making some strides."

The El Dorado Wildcats bopped Mulvane, 53-36, back in December in El Dorado.

"We shot better than they did from the field, we out-rebounded them by 10 rebounds but the fact remains we had five

turnovers more than they did and we shot seven-for-15 at the free throw line," pointed out Dunham. "Those two statistics did the damage. When you're team like we are, you can't afford to miss free throws and make more turnovers. Each possession is critical."

Mulvane and El Dorado battled back and forth most of the game, but the visitors started to pull away in the 3rd quarter. They out-scored Mulvane, 16-9, and that's all the edge it took.

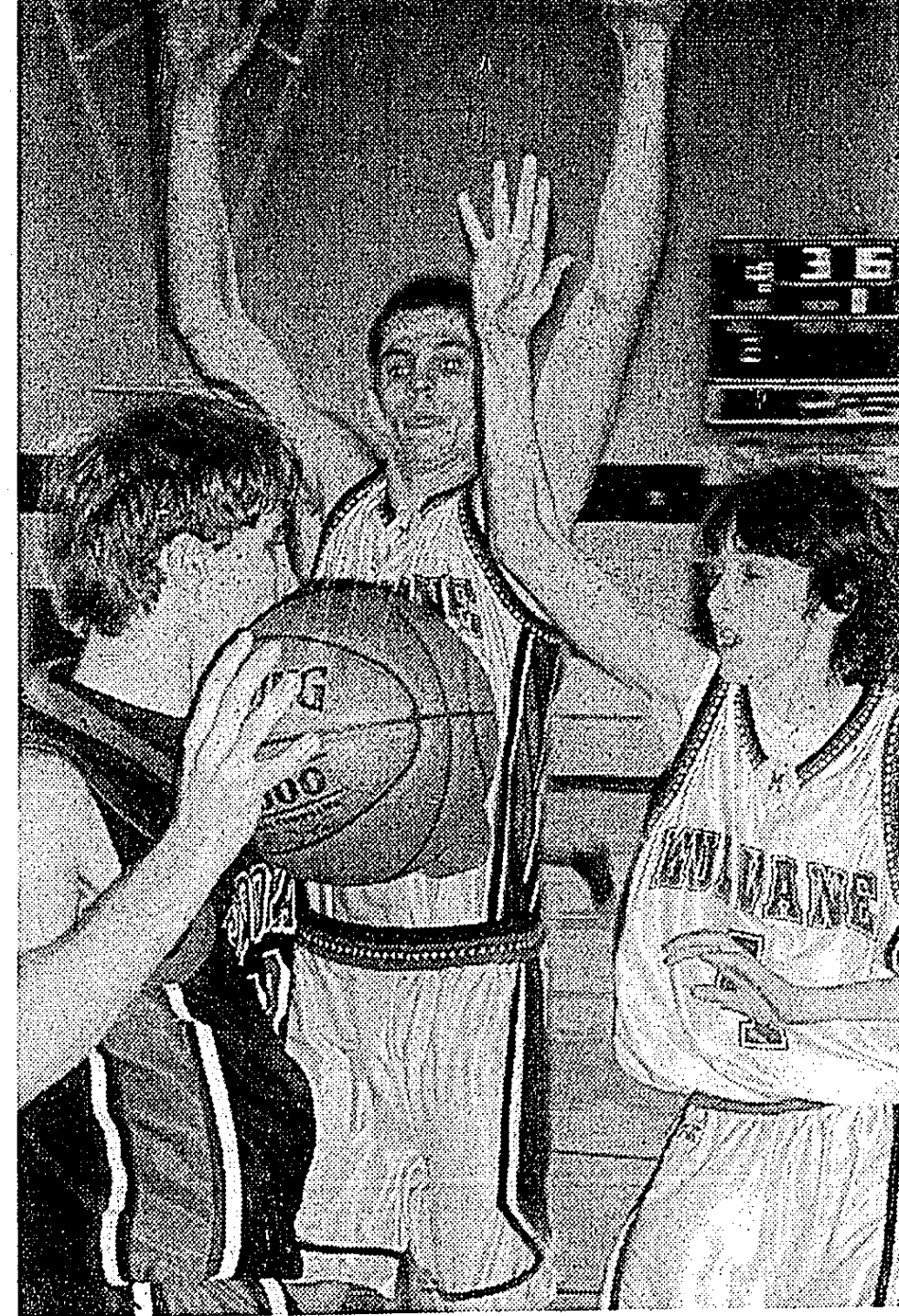
Mulvane took the lead, 29-28, midway through the third quarter but El Dorado hit a bucket to go up by one. "We came down and turned it over and they went back down the floor and hit another field goal to go up by three," said Dunham. "After a time out, we went back out there and really rushed things instead of taking our time and getting the great shot we needed at that time in the game. We missed and they came down and hit a three. It was literally about a two-minute span in the 3rd quarter that killed us."

The rest of the way, the two teams traded baskets, which was okay with El Dorado.

Junior Kyle Womacks had another big game Friday night, scoring a game-best 17 points. Big Adam Edwards scored nine points and paced the Wildcats to a 33-23 edge on the boards with 11 rebounds. He also had two blocks.

"Kyle is stepping up and filling the scoring void for us," praised Coach Dunham, "and Adam had a big game for us, too."

Mason Leonard, Tyler Ruder and J.D. Sorensen scored four points each.



Mulvane's John Knight and Dylan Donaldson (4) try to force a turnover against El Dorado