

Second Half Pounding Knocks Wildcats Out

A tough season ended on an even tougher note Monday night, Feb. 28, on the floor at Belle Plaine High School.

Mulvane's boys saw the basketball year come to an end as they were pounded by Belle Plaine, 90-46, in the first round of the Wellington Class 4A Sub-State. Belle Plaine was seeded No. 1 in the sub-state and improved to 20-1 for the season. The Wildcat season came to a conclusion at 1-20.

The game mirrored the year Coach Scott Dunham has had in his first season as head coach. Poor passing, turnovers and a ton of transition points for the opposition. It was like a bad song coming back for another run through his mind.

"We came out and played okay in the first half, we were at least within striking distance," said Dunham. "We were down 17 at halftime but we had a chance to get it inside 15 but missed the free throws. Then we came out and made the first two baskets of the second half. That's really kind of been the story of the season. We can't make things happen when we need it the most."

The Bulldogs out-scored the Cats, 30-9, the rest of the third quarter and raced off into the sunset, never to be seen again.

"The whole game got down to our turnovers and them scoring baskets in transition off those turnovers," said Dunham, reciting a familiar refrain. "In the second half alone, we had 18 turnovers and I think they had 15 transition baskets off those turnovers. Most of those were the result of our poor passing. They started jumping the passing lanes and reading our passing game."

Mulvane had only eight turnovers out of Belle Plaine.

"Another factor was their size inside, they beat us up on the boards," said Dunham. They pretty much just shot until they made it. That was kind of contrary to what we've done earlier this season. We won the rebound battle in most of our games but they had a lot of good size and they were more physical than we were."

Mulvane's Adam Edwards, a 6-6 junior, continued his improved play and led the Wildcats offensively, scoring 15 points. Kyle Womacks scored 13 points, freshman Dylan Donaldson scored six points and both Tyler Ruder and Jon Cross had three points.

"Our team chemistry just hasn't been there, I know that sounds like a clique but when our bus starts to fall apart, we don't

Wellington Boys Class 4A Sub-State Results

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 46 Belle Plaine 90
 Belle Plaine 27 Mulvane 46
 Mulvane: Mason Leonard 2, J.D. Sorensen 2, Adam Edwards 15, Tyler Ruder 3, Kyle Womacks 13, Dylan Donaldson 6, John Knight 2, Jon Cross 3, EG 12 (6), FT 8, 15, 1, 20.
 Belle Plaine: Brandon Woods 28, Taylor Donahue 7, Nate Gallhart 9, Kyle Lake 13, Lanner Matt 5, S. J. Montgomery 5, Nick Jantoni 2, Steve Montgomery 6, Nate Burrows 19, Cash Holland 7, EG 37 (2), FT 13, 21, 3, 14.
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 Kingman 61 Wellington 45
 Andover Central 54 Clearwater 48
 Rose Hill 73 Douglass 27

Boys Varsity

Rose Hill 18 Mulvane 15
 Mulvane 11 Rose Hill 4
 Rose Hill: Dennis Shirley 10, Blake Ringold 6, Brayden Crowe 3, Graham Petersen 11, Josh Shirley 2, Tyler Wilson 16, Jared McRae 6, James Hensley 9, Taylor Wilson 5, Trent Ubben 3, Aaron Clark 2, EG 28 (5), FT 12, 22, 1, 12.
 Mulvane: Tyler Ruder 4, Dylan Donaldson 5, Kyle Womacks 4, John Knight 2, J.D. Sorensen 4, Adam Edwards 7, Mason Leonard 6, EG 12 (1), FT 7, 9, 1, 20.

lose just a lug nut or two. It all goes bad fast and ends up in a pile of nuts and bolts. We went bad in a hurry against Belle Plaine."

It was almost identical to the final game of the regular season, too. In that one, the Wildcats were at home against league rival Rose Hill Thursday, Feb. 24. It was a game for only a quarter when Rose Hill exploded

for a 30-point period on the way to a 73-32 romp over the Wildcats.

That outcome left the Cats winless in their first season in the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League Division II.

"I think that was one of the few games that I wasn't happy with our effort," said Dunham. "We played with very little energy. We had three or four games like that. Clearwater and Conway Springs come to mind. If you're not playing hard in this league, you get pounded. Rose Hill has a very good, strong, solid team. They also took advantage of our turnovers that started coming in the second and third quarters."

It was close early. Mulvane was hanging tough, trailing by only a couple points before the Rockets turned it up a notch and pulled away. They out-scored the Cats, 30-4, in the second quarter and tacked on another 15-4 run in the third quarter. "There again, the wheels just completely fell off."

Mulvane's only edge came in rebounding with Edwards grabbing 10 rebounds and Womacks seven.

"Being at home and being Senior Night, I thought we would come out and play a strong game but we didn't," confessed Dunham.

Against the Rockets, Edwards topped the chart with seven points. Senior Mason Leonard scored six points, Donaldson had five and Ruder, Womacks and J.D. Sorensen all had four points.

AVCT League Boys Basketball Standings

Division III

Team	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
x-Buhler	9	1	18	3
Rose Hill	8	2	15	6
Augusta	5	5	10	11
El Dorado	4	6	8	13
Wellington	4	6	7	14
Mulvane	0	10	1	20

Division IV

y-Circle	8	2	17	4
y-Andover	8	2	15	6
Andover Central	6	4	16	5
Kingman	6	4	13	8
Clearwater	2	8	5	16
Andale	0	10	4	17

x-clinched the league championship; y-tied for the league championship

Sub-State Sites

At Wellington--Andover Central, Kingman, Rose Hill
 At El Dorado--Andover, Circle
 At Clay Center--Buhler