

Wildcat BB Boys Rally To Win Tourney Opener



Mulvane senior John Knight (21) starts his baseline drive against Andale

It was worth the wait.

The Mulvane High School boys' basketball team was supposed to have started their season a few days earlier, but they officially opened in the 1st round of the Rose Hill Early-Season Tournament at Andale Tuesday night, Dec. 5, and raised some eyebrows with the results.

The Wildcats used a balanced game and key free-throw shooting to knock off host Andale, 53-49, in the tournament opener, a result that probably few people outside of Mulvane would have predicted.

"This was a huge win," said MHS head coach Scott Dunham, who is heading into his third season. "Still, it's one win, and we don't have much time to celebrate. We've still got two games to play in this tournament, including Rose Hill, and we play them again the following week. We need to stay in our shoes and get ready for the next game."

The Wildcats hung close early against the host Indians, although a steal and layup before the halftime buzzer gave Andale a 33-26 lead at the break. In the third quarter, though, Mulvane outscored Andale, 12-4, with 10 of those 12 points coming inside from John Knight and Levi Hein. In the fourth quarter, the Wildcats would hit some big free throws down the stretch to protect their slim lead.

"We got some great post play from John and Levi in that third quarter," said Dunham.

Early-Season Tournament

Varsity—At Andale

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	11	15	12	15-53
Andale	15	18	4	12-49
Mulvane—Tyler Springer 2, Ryan Herrig 7, John Knight 13, Dylan Donaldson 13, Levi Hein 10, Jordan Gosch 8. FG 16 (3), FT 16-18.				
Andale—Hein 6, Uegles 6, Martin 2, Macari 13, Strusk 2, Mills 6, Hermeck 6, Eck 8. FG 19 (3), FT 8-20.				
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Rose Hill 68, Douglass 37				

"The other thing we did was go to a zone defense in the second half. That goes against our usual philosophy, but they were beating us off the dribble, and they weren't shooting that well from outside, so we put some pressure on their shooters, and it paid off."

The biggest statistic of the game was free throws. The statistic also proved to be the Wildcats' most damaging weapon. Mulvane was 16-for-18, with most of those coming in the fourth quarter. Andale made just eight of 20 attempts from the line.

Mulvane was led by three players in double figures. Knight and junior guard Dylan Donaldson each had 13 points while Hein added 10. Mulvane also got eight points from sophomore Jordan Gosch, seven from Ryan Herrig, and two from Tyler Springer.

The Wildcats' scheduled season opener at home against Winfield Friday, Dec. 1, was postponed due to bad weather conditions. The schools have agreed to re-schedule the contest for the same time on Tuesday night, Jan. 30, in the Cat gym.

The scene switches to Rose Hill for the remaining games in the Early-Season Tournament. The Wildcats will face host Rose Hill Friday night, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. After that, Mulvane will take on Douglass at Rose Hill Saturday, Dec. 9, at 4:15 p.m.