

Slow Start Dooms MIHS Boys

After the Mulvane boys' basketball team's first two games, the Wildcats are still learning how to start. And how to finish.

An 18-4 first-quarter deficit and a rough shooting night resulted in a 51-31 loss to Rose Hill in the first round of the Andale Early-Season Tournament Tuesday, Dec. 6. The 'Cats slipped to 0-2 on the season.

"We started very slowly," said Wildcat head coach Scott Dunham. "We didn't come aggressively at all on either end of the court. We were stagnant on offense and didn't show much pressure on defense. The rest of the game, we picked up our intensity a little, but we have to start games better than that."

The Wildcats made just 12 shots from the floor and were 5-for-13 from the free-throw line. "We're not finishing our shots, especially from close range," said Dunham. "We're missing too many layups. We showed more energy as the game went on, but we're just not executing the way we should. When we get good looks inside, we have to convert."

Kyle Womacks and Tyler Ruder each had six points to lead Mulvane. The 'Cats

also got four points each from John Knight, Adam Edwards, and Chris Wilson, three from Brock Kendall, and two each from Levi Hein and Aaron Elston.

The 'Cats had similar problems in their season opener at Winfield Friday night, Dec. 2. A bad start and several missed layups added up to a 69-47 loss to a team favored to win AVCTL Division II this year.

The Wildcats fell behind 15-2 after one quarter and played catch-up the rest of the way. Mulvane outscored the Vikings 21-15

in the second period to cut the lead to seven points by halftime, but Winfield took control with a 23-12 third-quarter edge.

"After the first quarter, we actually played pretty well," said Dunham. "We played a rather solid game, but we just started badly. We were also 9-for-22 in the paint and shot just over 50% from the line. That's too many scoring chances missed. We moved the ball well and stayed in the game until late in the third quarter. We just didn't execute on enough of our scoring chances."

Mulvane was led by 6-7 senior center Adam Edwards, who scored 14 points. The Wildcats also got 11 points from Tyler Ruder, nine from John Knight, and six from Chris Wilson. The 'Cats hit just 15 shots from the floor, including one three-pointer, and were only 16-for-28 from the free-throw line.

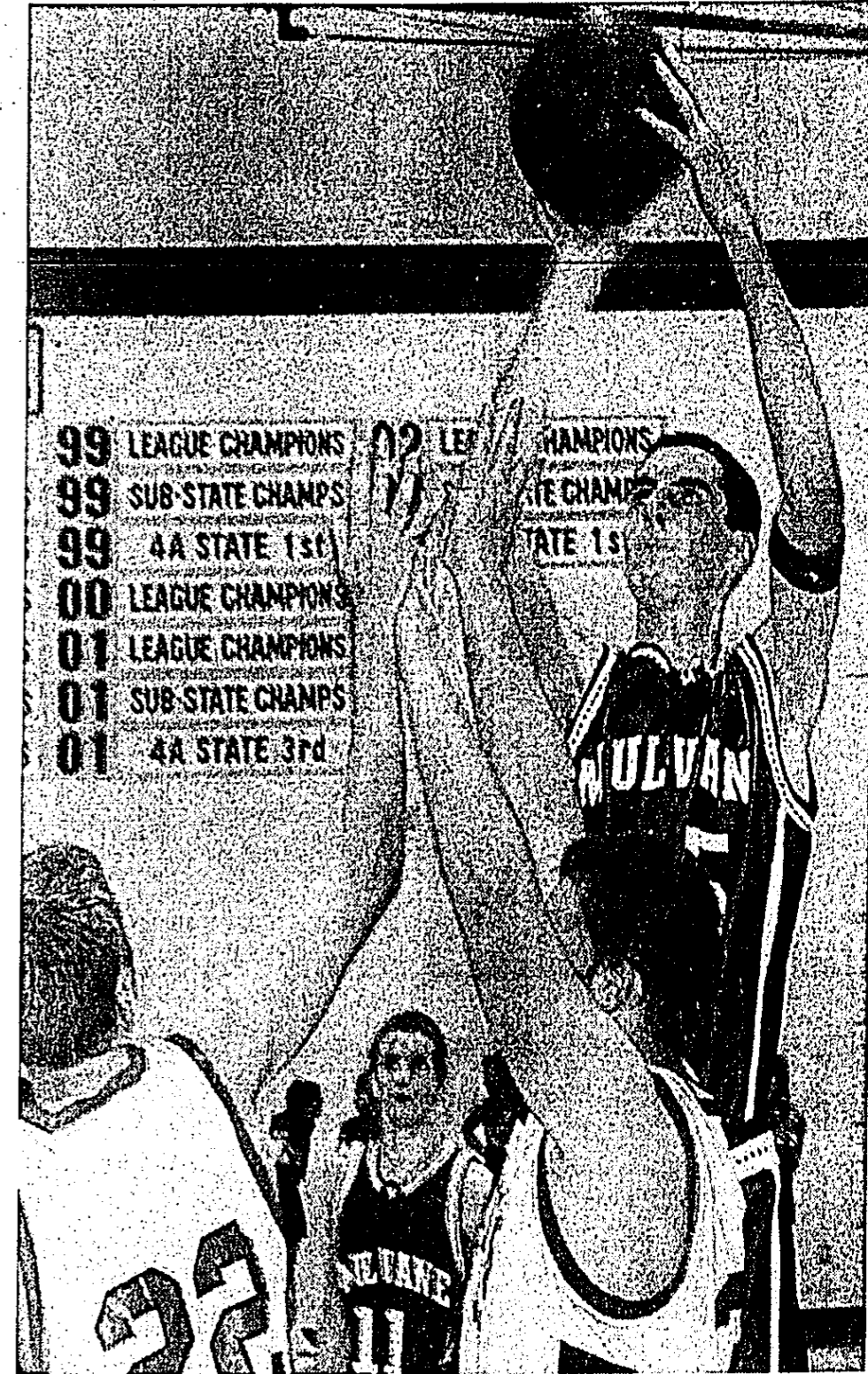
The Andale tournament continues tonight (Dec. 8), with Mulvane meeting host Andale in the late game, scheduled to start at 9:15 p.m. The 'Cats will play Douglass to wrap up the tournament Friday, Dec. 9, at 5:45 p.m. The Wildcats play their home opener Tuesday night, Dec. 13, against El Dorado at 7:30 p.m.

Andale Early-Season Tournament FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	4	10	8	9-31
Rose Hill	18	13	10	10-51
Mulvane	—Tyler Ruder 6, Aaron Elston 2, John Knight 4, Brock Kendall 3, Kyle Womacks 6, Chris Wilson 4, Adam Edwards 4, Levi Hein 2, FG 12 (2), FT 5-11			
Rose Hill	—Taylor Wilson 7, Brayden Crowe 7, Graham Petersen 6, Trent Ubben 8, Josh Shirley 21, Aaron Clark 2, FG 18 (3), FT 12-18			

Varsity Boys

Mulvane	2	21	12	12-47
Winfield	15	15	23	16-69
Mulvane	—Tyler Ruder 11, John Knight 9, Brock Kendall 1, Kyle Womacks 1, Jesse Pierce 2, Chris Wilson 6, Adam Edwards 14, FG 15 (1), FT 16-28			
Winfield	—Barbour 5, Haley 6, Schaefer 3, Anderson 2, Helthouse 2, Tadtman 4, Sotelo 6, Hutchins 9, Hoover 13, Beau Gerber 18, FG 29 (2), FT 9-12			



Senior center Adam Edwards (45) aims at the bucket against the Rockets

Andale Early Season Tournament Boys Pairings

TONIGHT (DEC. 8)

- 5:45 p.m. -- Rose Hill boys vs. Douglass boys
- 9:15 -- Mulvane boys vs. Andale boys

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

- 5:45 p.m. -- Mulvane boys vs. Douglass boys
- 9:15 -- Rose Hill boys vs. Andale boys