

RH Rockets Spoil Cat Comeback; Girls Open Classic With Andale

One bounce of the basketball, one misfire, one free throw.

That's what the Mulvane-Rose Hill girls basketball game got down to Friday night, Jan. 14, in Rose Hill.

But in the end, it was just another good measurement of progress for the Cats.

The Rockets held off a late surge by the Mulvane Wildcats, who were down by five with a minute to play. Rose Hill held on, though, and recorded a 54-53 victory in Rose Hill as Mulvane standout Abby Sorensen misfired on the second of two free throws.

Earlier this season, the Rockets beat the Cats by 10, 48-38, on a neutral floor.

When you're on their court, you have to

take advantage of every opportunity and we didn't do that," pointed out Cat Coach Dale Landes. "We felt like their quickness was going to be a problem for us and to overcome that, we had to take advantage of every break but we didn't get many. Every bounce, every loose ball seemed to go their way."

For the first half, it appeared the Wildcats could pull off the road win. Using a good 1st quarter, the Wildcats led much of the first half but by intermission, the Rockets had tied the game at 27s. Down the stretch, the Cats' battled their way back into the game before the missed free throw and the failure to create a foul in the last six seconds ended it.

"We played good basketball, about as good as we could considering the entire game," said Landes. "Things were looking good until Abby got into foul trouble in the second quarter and that gave them an opening."

Sorensen picked up her 3rd foul with about three minutes left before intermission and Mulvane leading the game. "With her out, our offense went stagnant for a while and that gave Rose Hill an opening," said the Cat coach. "One thing we talked about at halftime was to get more production out of our bench and we did that in the second half. It just came down to a bounce of the basketball. We had a little misfortune with the missed free throw, then we didn't get anybody fouled so the last six seconds ticked off."

Bench help came from junior Megan Turner, who had her best game with 10 points and some solid defensive work. Junior Kristi Parker gave Landes some good minutes and scored six points.

"We were a lot more aggressive offensively than we were at Buhler," said Landes. "We knew Rose Hill would give us some match-up problems but every time we got our hand on the basketball, it bounced to them, and we didn't get a lot of calls going our way in the first half."

With under a minute left, juniors Josey Gosch and Tara Roberts downed shots that brought the Cats within striking distance and the Wildcats had an opportunity with about 29 seconds left to take the lead. "We had the ball and had a set play called," said

25th Annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic

MONDAY, JAN. 24

Game 1 -- No. 3 Wellington (4-5) vs. No. 6 Campus (2-5), 6 p.m.

Game 2 -- No. 2 seeded Andale (5-3) vs. No. 7 Mulvane (2-7), 7:45

TUESDAY, JAN. 25

Game 3 -- No. 4 Wichita East (4-5) vs. No. 5 Clearwater (3-5), 6 p.m.

Game 3 -- No. 1 Garden Plain (8-0) vs. No. 8 Arkansas City (0-8), 7:45

THURSDAY, JAN. 27

Game 5 -- losers of games 1 and 2, 4 p.m.

Game 6 -- losers of games 3 and 4, (auxiliary gym), 6

Game 7 -- winners of 1 and 2, (main gym), 6

Game 8 -- winners of games 3 and 4, 7:45

SATURDAY, JAN. 29

Game 9 (Seventh Place)--losers of games 5 and 6, 2 p.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)--winners of games 5 and 6, 1:45

Game 11 (Third Place)--losers of games 7 and 8, 5:30

Game 12 (Championship)--winners of games 7 and 8, 7:30

Landes, "but the play broke down. I thought about calling a time out but the ball was where we wanted it to be—in Abby's hands. I felt something good would happen with the ball in her hands."

Sorensen drove across the head of the circle and was fouled. She made the first one to make it 54-53 and Rose Hill called time out to set strategy with 6.9 seconds left. When the next free throw crawled off the side of the rim and Rose Hill rebounded it, nobody fouled and the Rockets were able to escape.

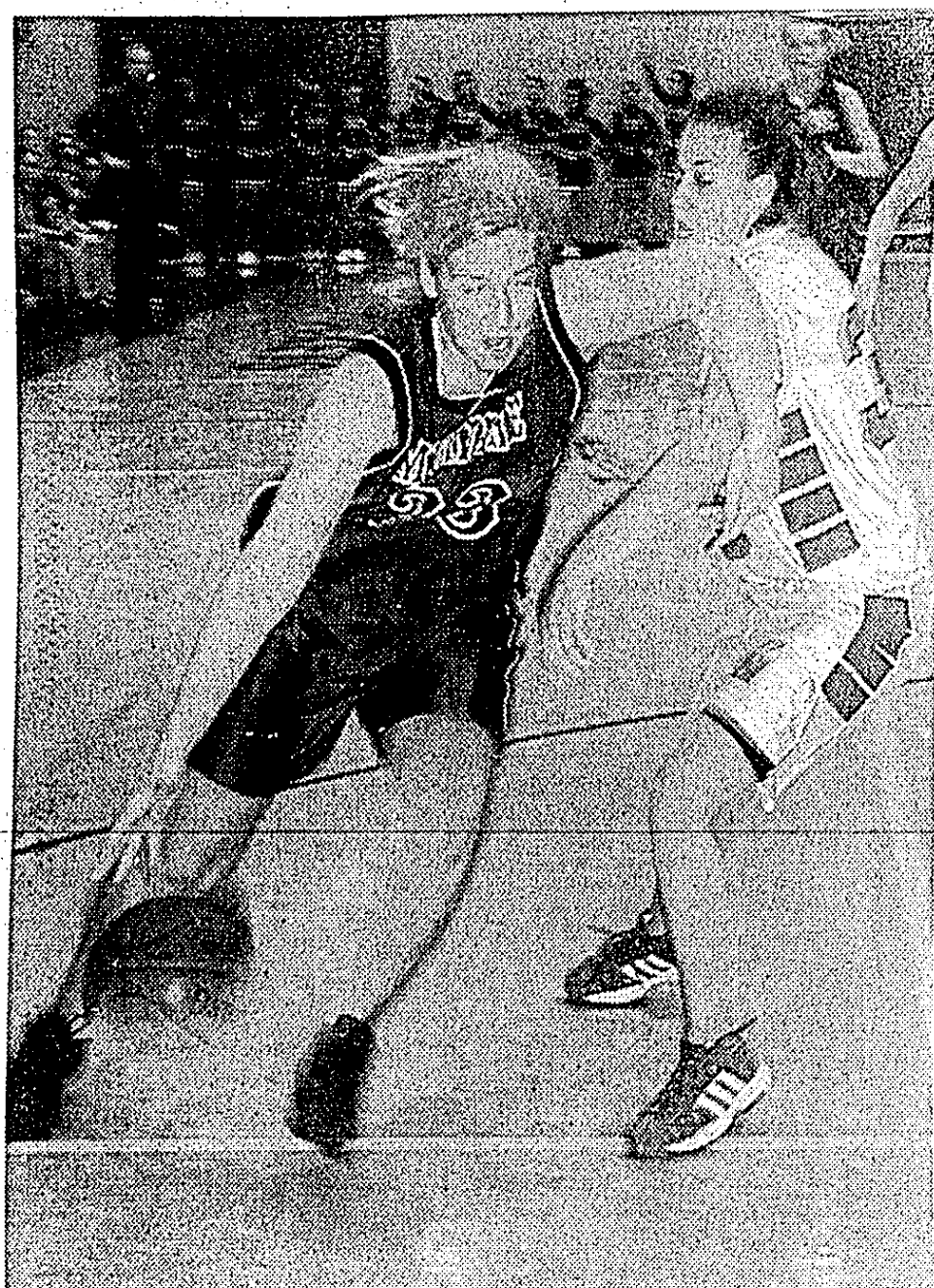
The senior Sorensen finished with a game-high 15 points and Roberts scored 11. Whitney Becker tossed in four points.

The MHS junior varsity girls out-scored Rose Hill, 10-2, in the 3rd quarter and that was the difference in a 36-28 Mulvane win Friday night. Hagerman and Melinda McKee topped the scorers for the Cat JV with eight points each. Keeper Thompson had six points and Jordan Martin scored five.

In the girls' junior varsity game at Buhler, the Wildcats never could get their offense going, being held to single digit production each of the first three quarters as the Crusaders rolled to a 48-31 victory.

The freshman McKee had her best game with nine points. Hagerman scored six and Martin had five points.

The Mulvane girls will host their own tournament next week. The Wildcat Girls Classic will open Monday night, Jan. 24 and the Cats will play the second game, playing the first game at 7:45 p.m. Monday against No. 2 seeded Andale. The Wildcats are seeded No. 7.



Junior Laura Buchanan goes to the basket against Rose Hill

Girls Varsity

Mulvane 11 16 10 16-53

Rose Hill 8 19 12 15-54

Mulvane—Josey Gosch 3, Laura Buchanan 3, Kristi Parker 6, Megan Turner 10, Tara Roberts 11, Abby Sorensen 15, Whitney Becker 4, FG 18 (5), FT 12-17, F 24

Rose Hill—Kristen Ozburn 11, Erica Rothweiler 6, Lacy Barnes 10, Dava Logsdon 12, Jenny Barnes 3, Madison Lucas 11, Erica Herman 2, FG 17 (1), FT 19-29, F 19

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane 6 8 10 12-36

Rose Hill 8 6 2 12-28

Mulvane—Kristi Parker 2, Jordan Martin 5, Keeper Thompson 6, Amanda Hagerman 8, Whitney Sullivan 3, Megan Turner 2, Melinda McKee 8, Tiffany Whitehead 2, FG 14 (1), FT 7-11, F 15

Rose Hill—Beka Sooter 2, Nicole Dunphy 8, Emily Jones 4, Michelle Odell 2, Erica Herman 12, FG 11 (3), FT 3-5, F 17

Mulvane 5 7 5 12-31

Buhler 14 9 10 11-48

Mulvane—Keeper Thompson 3, Melinda McKee 9, Jordan Martin 5, Whitney Phillips 4, Tiffany Whitehead 2, Amanda Hagerman 6, Emily Stahl 2, FG 5 (3), FT 12-20, F 15

Buhler—Wiens 13, K. Jones 5, Bridgess 8, Cikanek 2, Wilson 8, A. Reed 4, Esau 4, Fester 4, FG 19 (1), FT 9-13, F 16