

# MHS Girls Fade As Confidence Fades

Confidence breeds confidence and Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Dale Landes is still looking for some of that elusive stuff after the Wildcats finished in 4th place Saturday, Jan. 26, in the 28th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic.

"Overall in the tournament, I thought we showed periods of pretty good play. We showed what we are capable of doing, but we still struggle with consistency, which is one thing that we have struggled with a good part of this season," said Coach Landes. "We tend to struggle with our confidence, which leads to consistency."

The Wildcats, after playing great ball in their opening round victory over Arkansas City, ran into two teams that had talent—and confidence. The Wildcats lost by a 49-33 score in the third place game against Wichita Southeast Saturday night. A night earli-

## One Cat On Tourney Team; Herman MVP

Only one Mulvane High School Wildcat, Taylor Parsons, was named to the 10-member all-tournament Saturday night, Jan. 26, at the conclusion of the 28th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic.

Parsons, a sophomore, was one of seven underclassmen who were named to the all-tournament team by a vote of coaches and tournament officials.

Rose Hill's standout backcourt tandem of Kristy Herman and Whitney Bates were the only two Rose Hill High School players named to the all-tournament team. They helped pilot the RH Rockets to a repeat as tournament champions. Rose Hill has now won six Mulvane Classic games in a row after topping No. 1 seeded Garden Plain, 62-57, in Saturday's championship game.

Herman was the tournament's top scorer and she was named tournament MVP. Joining Parsons, Herman and Bates on the 10-member team were Kim Kerschen and Jamie Kerschen, both from Garden Plain; Kamisha Richard and Jamillah Bonner, both from Wichita Southeast, which finished third; Natalie Stinson of Arkansas City, J'Lynn Ledesma of Wellington and Melanie Brockelmann of Clearwater.

It's a young all-tournament team, too, with only three seniors—the Kerschen girls and Natalie Stinson. Brockelmann, Ledesma and Herman are juniors and Parsons and Richard are sophomores. Bonner is a freshman.

er against Garden Plain, a 3rd quarter swoon gave the Owls the momentum on the way to a 52-42 semifinal victory.

Rose Hill ran its winning streak in the Classic to six straight games and defended their tournament championship by holding off Garden Plain, 62-57, in the tournament finale.

Clearwater checked Arkansas City, 62-43, to take 5th place and Wellington hopped Campus, 46-39, to take 7th.

Mulvane had its troubles keeping up with the athletic Southeast team. "They really hurt us with their athletes," said Landes. "They were quick to the ball and they had the size on us. We really tried to force them to shoot from the perimeter. That was our game plan but when they did, they got the rebound and that kind of negated the whole game plan."

Southeast out-rebounded the Cats, 34-23, which had the most dramatic impact on the game. "We knew we had to block out well against them because they started a 6-foot and 6-2 under the basket, so we knew that was going to be a challenge for us. I didn't feel like we did a very good job of blocking out under the basket."

The SE Buffaloes rolled out to a 14-8 lead after one quarter and by intermission, they held a 10-point lead that the Wildcats never could cut into. And the Mulvane girls didn't help themselves either, going only 9-for-19 at the free throw stripe.

"Offensively we had some very good looks, we had opportunities but we didn't take advantage of them," said Landes, noting his girls hit only 23% from the field. "When you're not shooting, it takes its toll on your confidence. We weren't making shots that we had made earlier in the tournament."

One Wildcat who did have a solid game offensively was sophomore Haylee Smith, who led the squad with 13 points and eight rebounds. Taylor Parsons chipped in with five points and Stephanie Wilson, Courtney Becker and Caitlin Wise all finished with four points. "Wilson went 0-for-7 from the field but she did a great job passing the ball inside," said Landes. "She had five assists in the game."

For a half, Mulvane appeared to be perched on the edge on an upset. The Cats were playing good basketball and leading Garden Plain, 30-25, at intermission, but the Owls responded by rolling off 16 consecutive points in an 18-2 run that put the game squarely in their court.

"In the first half, we shot the ball well and I thought we handled their pressure really well but in the third



## 28th Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic Results

### THIRD PLACE

Wichita Southeast 14 11 10 14-49  
Mulvane 8 7 8 10-33  
Wichita Southeast—Jamillah Bonner 18, Paige Johnson 3, Demetra Williams 2, Kamisha Richard 14, Brianna Allen 4, Keyona Jennings 4, Kelli Tyler 4. FG 20 (1), FT 8-13, F 19.

Mulvane—Haylee Smith 13, Stephanie Wilson 4, Taylor Parsons 5, Katie Ybarra 2, Courtney Becker 4, Caitlin Wise 4, Kayla Morton 1. FG 12 (0), FT 9-19, F 11.

### FIRST PLACE

Rose Hill 62, Garden Plain 57

### FIFTH PLACE

Clearwater 62, Arkansas City 43

### SEVENTH PLACE

Wellington 46, Campus 39

### SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 11 19 2 10-42  
Garden Plain 11 14 18 9-32  
Mulvane—Madhvi Wise 10, Katie Ybarra 4, Courtney Becker 6, Haylee Smith 6, Stephanie Wilson 6, Taylor Parsons 5, Taylor Bell 3. FG 16 (3), FT 7-9, F 17.

Garden Plain—Kim Kerschen 18, Jodie Dold 4, Jamie Kerschen 8, Camille Hubert 2, Miranda Meyer 5, Ann Pauly 5, Melissa Leehr 10. FG 20 (2), FT 10-16, F 12.

Rose Hill 55, Wichita Southeast 46

Clearwater 53, Campus 38

Arkansas City 48, Wellington 42

quarter, everybody went cold," pointed out Landes. "We made a few mistakes against their pressure and they hit a couple of big threes and suddenly they were in control. I guess it was the kind of game you wish that they had played through the half because we came out in the second half and didn't execute the same way."

The Wildcats were stuck on "30" for nearly the whole quarter before Smith finally hit a bucket to break the spell. "We played pretty good defense the first half of that quarter but Garden Plain got the momentum going their way and we couldn't stop it."

Junior guard Wise led the Cat scoring with 10 points and there was good balance the rest of the way. Becker, Smith and Wilson each scored six and Parsons scored five. Taylor Bell added three points.

The Wildcat girls will be taking their 3-10 record to Wellington Friday night, Feb. 1, then getting a good look at a ranked Andover Central squad in a home game Tuesday, Feb. 5, before getting into the last half of the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League games down the stretch run.