

Balance **short**

Girls 'Terrific' In Second Half

Coach Dale Landes' "play-o-meter" registered "good" in the first half but it sailed to "terrific" as his Mulvane High School girls controlled Wellington's Crusader girls in a non-league game Friday night, Feb. 1, at Wellington.

The Wildcats led from beginning to end and extended their lead in the second half by out-scoring the Crusaders in every quarter on their way to a 48-34 triumph.

"We did a pretty good job in the second quarter but I thought our girls did a terrific job in the second half," said Landes. "Defensively, I felt like we were a little bit slow in the first half but after intermission, our girls did a much, much better job. We just weren't recognizing coverages and what we needed to do when the shot went up in the first half. We were a little slow to block out, we weren't aggressive enough.

"That hurt us in the first half. They had one girl who scored eight points because we didn't challenge her enough, giving her easy shots. After halftime, we didn't make any changes but just urged the girls to get a little more aggressive on the defensive end. The came out and did it, too."

And that increased intensity also translated into the MHS offensive end, too. "We got to the free throw line for 31 shots and many of those came in the second half," said Landes. "That's what happens when you get more aggressive. We only made 15 of them but at least the girls were getting aggressive."

Another plus for the offense was Mulvane's passing. Good passing means better looks because the ball seems to get to the person who is open.

Varsity Girls

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| Mulvane | 8 | 11 | 12 | 17-48 |
| Wellington | 7 | 8 | 8 | 11-34 |
| Mulvane—Katie Ybarra 3, Courtney Becker 3, Melinda McKee 12, Stephanie Wilson 9, Maddie Wise 3, Haylee Smith 3, Taylor Parsons 8. FG 16 (1), FT 15-32, P 12. | | | | |

Wellington—J'Lynn Ledesma 8, Brooke Biles 2, Nicole Stone 9, Karli Tucker 3, Madi Becker 4, Sarah Amstein 8. FG 19 (3), FT 3-11, P 26.

"We didn't force a lot on Friday night, we just took advantage of what Wellington gave us," said Landes. "We did a better job of creating better shots for ourselves with good passing. And once we got the lead, I thought the girls were playing more confidently, especially as we closed out the game."

The Crusaders made a little run early in the 4th quarter, getting to within four points at one time, but the Wildcats had buckets from senior Melinda McKee and sophomores Stephanie Wilson and Taylor Parsons to regain their footing.

Landes achieved another balanced attack on offense with seven players scoring. McKee, back in the line-up after missing a couple games with a knee injury, lead all scorers with 12 points. Wilson finished with nine points, Parsons scored eight and Haylee Smith, Courtney Becker and Katie Ybarra all chipped in with five points each.

"Right now, knock on wood, we have everybody healthy and hopefully, we can stay that way the second half of the season," said Landes.

The girls will start the second round of Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League at Rose Hill Friday night, Feb. 8. The girls will be at home Tuesday night, Feb. 12, with El Dorado coming to town.