

Short Defensive Stand Lets MHS Girls Prevail

It might go down as the biggest 13 seconds of the season for the Mulvane High School girls.

It will definitely go down as the best defensive 13 seconds of the season.

The Wildcat girls held off Kingman Tuesday night, Feb. 8, making a 13-second defensive stand at the end to preserve a 42-40 triumph over the Eagles in a game in Kingman.

That left the Cat girls at 5-10 for the season heading into Winter Homecoming Friday night, Feb. 11, with El Dorado coming to town.

A bucket with slightly over a minute to play by Tasha Parman ended up being the winning points of the game.

"It was a big win for us, coming off that Clearwater loss," said Coach Dale Landes. "We really needed something good to happen."

And oddly, it happened at the defensive end, which hasn't been kind to the MHS girls this season. Laura Buchanan's rebound of a missed free throw started the drama with under a minute left. Mulvane couldn't salt it away at the free throw line, giving the Eagles one last chance under their basket with 13 seconds left.

"I just told the girls it was time for a defensive stop and reminded them to block out during a time out they called and the girls went out and were all over them for those last 13 seconds," said Coach Landes. "The best they got off was a long three pointer."

"It was a good win for us, good for the

girls who stepped up and met the challenge," added Landes. "They defended our two biggest scorers (Abby Sorensen and Tara Roberts) with a triangle and two defense and stopped them but we had a lot of other girls who stepped up."

Chief among them was Whitney Becker, who finished with 10 points and Parman, who scored nine. Josey Gosch had eight points and Megan Turner scored seven.

Coach Landes couldn't hide his dismay with the MHS girls defense Friday night, in a home game against Clearwater. The Indians had come into Mulvane's backyard and scored 68 points to win a 68-51 game.

That's the most given up by the Cats this year against a team with a losing record. The Indians are 5-9.

"Our defense was horrible and that's the only thing I can point to in this loss," said Landes. "We were just slow in reacting to the ball, slow in trying to rotate to help, whether we were playing a man or a zone. And we were slow to close on the ball."

"The coaches have preached all year long on getting quicker to the ball and playing with our feet and not our hands," added Landes. "These are things we'll talk about for quite a while. We just played with very poor technique."

On the surface, one can point to Clearwater's 33-for-47 showing at the free throw line but the sad reality is that the defensive positioning was slow and off the mark against the Indians.

"Our defense gave the game away for us," said Landes. "We really haven't played great defense as a team all year long but we also haven't played this poorly since over at the Douglass Tournament. We just got beat too many times on pressure and we didn't rotate over so when they missed shows, we weren't in position to get the rebounds."

That led to another tell-tale sign of the

game. Clearwater smashed the Cats on the boards, 31-14 (the Wildcats got only 14 rebounds), and 10 of their 31 were offensive rebounds that they put back in.

The game was actually a lot closer than the 17-point spread at the end. Clearwater outscored Mulvane, 23-13, in the 4th quarter as the Wildcats had to resort to fouling in the last two-plus minutes to try to extend the game.

"We were actually about five or six points down with a little more than two minutes left in the game so it really kind of piled up on us at the end as they were making their free throws," offered Landes. "We went into the game thinking this is one we could win. I thought we were ready but mentally, the girls didn't do a very good job getting ready to play. They lacked the intensity to play defense."

The two teams battled in the first half. It was a 30-28 game at intermission with Mulvane on the low end. "They didn't make any adjustments at halftime but we started getting beat under the boards and back in transition."

Mulvane had good paint play from Josey Gosch off the bench and Laura Buchanan. Gosch had a team-high 15 points and Buchanan scored 10 in the paint. Tara Roberts scored nine points and both Whitney Becker and Abby Sorensen scored six points.

"We have six games left in the regular season to correct those mistakes," said Landes. "If we correct them, we might be able to have some success in sub-state. If we don't, it's too bad because this team has a lot of talent offensively. It's just too bad our defense isn't coming through for us."

The next opportunity to find out will be Friday night, Feb. 11. It's Winter Homecoming for the Wildcats and El Dorado will be in Mulvane for a game in the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League Division III.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	11	8	14	9	42
Kingman	13	7	14	6	40
Mulvane--Tasha Parman 9, Josey Gosch 8, Whitney Becker 10, Abby Sorensen 1, Laura Buchanan 4, Tara Roberts 3, Megan Turner 7 FG 18-10, FT 6-11, F 16					

Kingman--Vecchiucelli 8, Funke 2, Miller 9, Blackburn 2, Gee-Jing 4, Gonzales 4, Brittan 6 Lacro 5 FG 15 (1), FT 9-15, F 13

Clearwater	15	15	15	23	68
Mulvane	12	16	10	13	51

Clearwater--Kristi Love 27, Kacie Laha 3, Melissa Brockelman 1, Jessica France 18, Rachel Strickland 19 FG 17 (1), FT 33-47, F 17

Mulvane--Whitney Becker 6, Laura Buchanan 10, Abby Sorensen 6, Josey Gosch 15, Tara Roberts 9, Melinda McKee 2, Megan Turner 4 FG 21 (3), FT 6-14 F 30

Junior Varsity Girls

Clearwater	11	11	8	11	41
Mulvane	8	11	9	20	48

Clearwater--Sarah Klausmeyers 6, Mellen 2, Chelsey Hargett 2, Jordan Mills 10, Kane Van Allen 10, Megan Hines 4, Melissa Brockelman 7 FG 19 (2), FT 1-6, F 21

Mulvane--Whitney Sullivan 15, Jordan Martin 11, Kristi Parker 3, Melinda McKee 12, Keeper Thompson 4, Josey Gosch 1, Caitlin Wise 2 FG 13 (3), FT 19-28, F 13