

# Defensive Woes Sink Girls

Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Dale Landes could use some help from all those folks in the stands yelling "DEFENSE."

It's not getting through!

Landes once again placed the blame of defense when the Wildcats rolled out of Wellington Tuesday night, Feb. 15, with a 57-45 loss. It was the third loss in the last four games for the Wildcats and dropped their record to 5-12 as the season winds down into a precious few games.

"Defensively, we continue to show we're just not a very good team," said Landes. "No matter how hard or how long we work in practice on defensive principals, we continue to struggle trying to execute them in a game. Tuesday night, our ball defense was very poor and the technique on our help-side defense was terrible."

And Wellington's Lindsey Davis thanks you. She scored a career-high 28 points. Heck, the Cats beat the rest of the Crusader team by 19 points. "We knew she was a scorer," said Landes, who was missing his top defensive player, Whitney Becker, who was out with an injury. "We started with a man-to-man but couldn't keep up with her so we switched to a zone. It was like nobody kept track of where she was when we were playing a zone and she got a couple of threes on us. That's the kind of defense that hurts. You'd think when a player is killing you that you would know where she was when we're in a zone.

"Until we take a little ownership in our defense, it's going to be the same thing every night," added Landes. "And I think every team we play in the next 10 days has a definite scorer. If we can't get any better

## Girls Varsity

Mulvane	9	8	14	13-45
Wellington	12	13	19	12-57
Mulvane--	Amanda Hagerman 4, Tara Roberts 13, Kristi Parker 4, Laura Buchanan 6, Melinda McKee, Abby Sorensen 7, Tasha Parman 4, Megan Turner 2 FG 15 (3), FT 12-19, F 20			
Wellington--	Courtney Goodrum 6, Stephanie Dixon 2, Lindsey Davis 28, Alicia Dierksen 7, Stephanie White 4, Kaec Brown 2, Mandy Zeka 2, Christina McQuinn 6 FG 21 (3), FT 12-25, F 15			
El Dorado	12	11	9	12-44
Mulvane	10	8	10	8-36
El Dorado--	Kristina Jones 10, Anne Matthews 6, Misty Banton 6, Caitlin Deen 5, Katherine Ward 9, Abby Connel 8 FG 15 (5), FT 9-15, F 11			
Mulvane--	Tara Roberts 6, Abby Sorensen 7, Whitney Becker 8, Laura Buchanan 2, Josey Gosch 7, Kristi Parker 4, Megan Turner 2 FG 14 (2), FT 6 (7), F 14			

at stopping the other team's main scorer, it's going to continue to be ugly."

The Wildcats were still in the game late in the 4th quarter thanks to junior Tara Roberts, who pumped in three three-pointers. It was 44-40, with midway into the last quarter. Wellington quickly jumped the lead to nine points with five straight points and the rest of the way. Mulvane scrambled to stay in the game.

Eight different Wildcats scored, which is good. "Some of our younger players got a chance to play and did well," said Landes. "But we all still need to think about what's happening on the defensive end."

Guard Abby Sorensen had seven points and center Laura Buchanan scored six. Freshman Melinda McKee, in her first extended court time, scored five points and three players scored four points apiece—Tasha Parman, Amanda Hagerman and Kristi Parker.

Sometimes the game of basketball boils down to one simple term: execution.

El Dorado did it: Mulvane's girls didn't Friday night, Feb. 12, in a home game in the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League, and El Dorado was able to hold off the Mulvane Cat girls, 44-36.

"El Dorado is a great defensive team," stressed Coach Landes. "There's a reason why El Dorado is leading the league. It's their defense. Friday night's game came down to the fact that we were unable to take our scouting report and the things we worked on in practice and execute those plans in a game."

El Dorado was able to open a crack between the two teams, then enlarge it by playing terrific defense and letting the Cats get impatient.

"We wanted to execute our fast break and get some easy baskets," said Landes. "And when we didn't score quickly off the fast break, we wanted to be patient. Take our time and be patient in our half-court offense, but we started rushing things and making poor decisions early. We tried to force the issue, which is what they wanted us to do and it didn't work out for us."

El Dorado's Wildcats just had enough offense to keep the MHS girls at bay until the last quarter. "We got within four points in the 4th quarter, we had the momentum going our way but defensively we had a couple of breakdowns and they stretched it out to six, then eight points. After that we had to start fouling. Good teams will make their free throws and they did."

Whitney Becker's eight points paced the Mulvane Wildcats, who slipped to 5 with four league games left. Josey Gosch and Abby Sorensen scored seven points each

and Tara Roberts hit six.

Next outing for Mulvane's girls is Friday night, Feb. 18, when the team goes to Augusta. The Wildcats will be back home for their final two games of the regular season. Buhler will be here Tuesday, Feb. 22, and the Cats tangle with Rose Hill Thursday night, Feb. 24, in the finale before sub-state time.