

Offensive Struggle Extracts A Toll

The Mulvane High School girls' basketball team's sub-state opener at Clearwater Tuesday night, Feb. 27, resembled several of their regular-season games.

After trailing by just five points at halftime, the Wildcats couldn't keep up with the host Indians, and Clearwater pulled away in the second half for a 52-27 win, ending Mulvane's season at 3-18. Clearwater (13-8) moves on to the sub-state semifinals Friday night, March 2, at Rose Hill against Belle Plaine.

"Our inability to score really hurt us," said Wildcat head coach Dale Landes. "Our lack of height allowed them to score several second-chance baskets, especially in the third quarter. We created some good shots on offense, but we didn't finish them. We also didn't take care of the ball in the backcourt very well."

Mulvane stayed close in the first half against a team they had lost to by 10 points in late January. Late in the half, Mulvane cut the Clearwater lead to 18-15 before the Indians beat the buzzer to go up by five. The third quarter was where Clearwater took control. Over the first six minutes, the Indians outscored the Wildcats 13-2 to take a 33-17 lead. The lead slowly got larger the rest of the game.

"We're averaging 36 points a game and shooting less than 30% from the floor," said Landes. "We played pretty well on defense, but those kinds of offensive numbers aren't going to win many games, regardless of how good your defense is."

The Wildcats made just nine shots from the floor and were 8-for-14 from the free-throw line. Mulvane got six points from freshman Taylor Parsons, five from Whitney Sullivan, four each from Katie Ybarra and Maddie Wise, three from Lauren Miller, two each from Stephanie Wilson and Courtney Becker, and one from Melinda McKee.

"Whitney gave everything she had on the court," said Landes. "She's been doing that all season long. Lauren came in off the bench and played very well defensively. That kind of play kept us in the game in the first half."

The Wildcat girls ended their regular season on Senior Parents' Night Thursday night, Feb. 22, against Buhler. The Crusaders, the second-place team in AVCTL Division III (8-2 league, 12-8 overall), jumped ahead early and never trailed, defeating the Wildcats, 58-29. Mulvane finished 0-10 in league play.

Buhler scored the first six points of the game and never looked back, taking a 15-8 lead over the Wildcats by the end of the first period. By halftime, the lead had been

Rose Hill Class 4A Sub-State Tournament

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	4	11	4	8-27
Clearwater	8	12	15	17-52
Mulvane—Stephanie Wilson 2, Maddie Wise 4, Lauren Miller 3, Whitney Sullivan 3, Courtney Becker 2, Katie Ybarra 4, Taylor Parsons 6, Melinda McKee 1. PG 9 (1), FT 8-14.				
Clearwater—Emily Miazak 2, Abbee Widler 2, Tricia Vogel 7, Monica Schoenecker 10, Melanie Bruckelman 5, Jordan Mills 13, Melissa Bruckelman 13. PG 21 (3), FT 7-12.				

Belle Plaine 49, Wellington 40
Andover Central 71, Douglas 33
Rose Hill 50, Independence 27

Varsity Girls

Buhler	15	13	19	9-58
Mulvane	8	6	10	5-29
Buhler—Brittany Hines 21, Heidi B, Cassie Barber 2, Franz 3, Tynan Hone 12, Richman 3, Sherasa Citanch 3, Priscen 6. PG 23 (2), FT 10-14.				
Mulvane—Maddie Wise 4, Lauren Miller 1, Whitney Sullivan 2, Courtney Becker 2, Katie Ybarra 4, Taylor Parsons 2, Melinda McKee 10, Kaitlin Lanzrath 4. PG 10 (0), FT 9-20.				

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	10	11	14	22-57
Augusta	13	2	3	10-28
Mulvane—Stephanie Wilson 5, Lauren Miller 2, Lindsey Ring 4, Kendra Reusser 4, Haylee Smith 3, Kelsey Sharpe 2, Kaitlin Lanzrath 4, Taylor Parsons 6, Amanda Burrell 19, Tola Roberts 2. PG 22 (0), FT 13-17.				
Augusta—Schwemmer 13, Carman 3, Crawford 2, Westbrook 4, Carr 4. PG 7 (1), FT 13-22.				

extended to 30-14. The Crusaders kept the pressure on in the third quarter, and the lead grew to 49-24 by the end of the period.

The offensive struggles continued for the Wildcats. Mulvane hit just 10 shots from the floor and went 9-for-20 from the line. McKee led Mulvane with 10 points while Wise, Ybarra, and Kaitlin Lanzrath each had four. Sullivan, Parsons, and Becker each scored two points while Miller had one. The girls' basketball portion of the Senior Night ceremony was brief. Sullivan is the only senior on the Wildcat roster.

The Mulvane junior varsity, coached by Brad Canfield, rolled to a 57-28 win at Augusta Tuesday, Feb. 20. Amanda Burrell led all scorers with 19 points. Mulvane also got eight points from Kaitlin Lanzrath, six each from Lindsey Ring and Taylor Parsons, and five from Stephanie Wilson.

After a season of learning experiences for a young team, improvement will likely be expected next season. The Wildcats graduate just one senior, and the junior varsity and freshman teams both had successful seasons.