

# Defensive Struggles Taking Toll On Cat Girls' Game

Another poor defensive effort landed the Mulvane High School girls in hot water Tuesday night, Dec. 7, in the second round of the Douglass Early Season Tournament.

And it's too bad the hot water didn't heat up the Wildcat shooters because a very poor shooting game coupled with bad defense enabled Douglass to put the Cats away. The Bulldogs held off the Cats, 50-46.

"We played good basketball in the 4th quarter to make it look closer but it wasn't that close, really. We played very poor defense and shot the ball horrendously," commented Coach Dale Landes. "Tara (Roberts) hit a couple of threes in the 4th quarter that put us close late in the game and we had a lot of opportunities but we didn't take advantage of them."

One of the biggest opportunities came at the free throw line, where the Cats were 12 of 25. Junior Josey Gosch scored 13 points to top the MHS scoring effort. Roberts finished with nine, Laura Buchanan scored eight.

The Wildcats couldn't match their opening night intensity and tumbled in their first round game Monday night, Dec. 6, in the Douglass tourney. Rose Hill inched past the Cats, 48-38.

"Defensively, we played very poorly," said Coach Landes. "We didn't get back in transition from offense to defense and that really hurt us. Rose Hill got a lot of fast-break buckets or they went to the free throw line because our positioning (on defense) was terrible."

The Rockets shot 33 shots from the free throw line, hitting 20 of them. That was the difference as the Cats had 15 field goals to Rose Hill's 14.

"Poor defense just says it all," added Landes. "Rose Hill is a transition team. They like to run and they do it very well. We knew that going in. We felt the ball game was going to be up-tempo because we like to push the ball, too. They just did it a lot better than we did."

The Wildcats were on the doorstep most of the night, trailing by only three points, 29-26, heading into the last quarter. It was the Rockets' quarter, though as they they out-scored Mulvane, 19-12, to pull away.

Laura Buchanan led a balanced Cat scoring sheet with nine points. Tara Roberts finished with eight, guard Abby Sorensen scored seven, Whitney Becker had six and Tasha Parman hit five points.

"The big problem was we were constantly out of position because we weren't getting back quick enough defensively, we just didn't have it tonight," said Landes.

The Wildcats did when they opened the season Friday night, Dec. 3, at home against Winfield. Mulvane jumped ahead early and held the lead all the way in a 48-33 win against the Vikings.

"It was a real good start," said Landes following his first game as head coach for the Cat girls. "I thought the fact that we caused 23 turnovers was the biggest factor. We only had seven turnovers ourselves. That was big. For us to have only seven turnovers and play the style that we do was big. I thought the girls handled the ball really well."

Mulvane didn't let the Vikings' big girl, JoAnn Hamlin, get in the way of things. She might be headed for K-State on a BB scholarship but she couldn't pull Winfield to a victory despite scoring 21 points.

"We figured she would get her points," said Landes. "Hamlin also had to work hard for those points. We had three girls around her most of the time. To hold the rest of the Winfield team to just two field goals and 12

points, our game plan worked pretty well for us. We just wanted to make the rest of their girls beat us."

Despite some poor shooting in the opening quarter (MHS went 3-for-12 from the field), the Wildcats rolled out to a 9-5 lead that only got bigger as the night progressed.

## Douglass Early Season Girls Basketball Tournament

### SECOND ROUND

Mulvane	5	11	9	21-46
Douglass	11	12	10	17-50

Mulvane--Laura Buchanan 8, Tara Roberts 9, Whitney Becker 6, Josey Gosch 13, Abby Sorensen 6, Tasha Parman 4. FG 16 (2), FT 12-25, F 25.

Douglass--Currie 28, McDaniel 3, Shumaker 6, Baughman 3, Nachbor 4, Giesin 6. FG 17 (1), FT 15-23, F 22.

Andale 42, Rose Hill 30

### FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	5	14	7	12-38
Rose Hill	15	6	8	19-48

Mulvane--Tara Roberts 8, Josey Gosch 3, Tasha Parman 5, Abby Sorensen 7, Whitney Becker 6, Laura Buchanan 9. FG 15 (2), FT 6-11, F 21.

Rose Hill--Deva Logsdon 11, Kristen Ozburn 10, Jenny Barnes 6, Erica Rothweiler 8, Lacy Barnes 11, Erika Herman 2. FG 14 (0), FT 20-33, F 15.

Andale 71, Douglass 35

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### Varsity Girls

Winfield	5	8	11	9-33
Mulvane	9	15	12	12-48

Winfield--Kristin Watson 4, JoAnn Hamlin 21, Autumn Mugler 3, Arista Wate 3, Erika Sec 2. FG 8 (1), FT 16-22, F 16.

Mulvane--Tasha Parman 4, Abby Sorensen 13, Whitney Becker 6, Tara Roberts 8, Josey Gosch 8, Laura Buchanan 4, Megan Turner 5. FG 17 (3), FT 11-18, F 19.

"Even though we shot poorly that first quarter, the turnover factor was in our favor and our defense played well," said Landes. "Then our offense kicked in and we were able to build a nice lead by halftime."

The Cats hit 7 of 11 fielders in the 2nd quarter to take a 24-13 lead and held their own the rest of the way. "Down the stretch, it was good to see the girls hitting their free throws," said Landes. "We hit 8 of 10 in the last quarter.

"But the great thing about the second half is that every time they hit a run, we answered," added Landes. "They would hit a critical bucket and we'd come back with one of our own."

Point guard Sorensen keyed the MHS offense by getting the ball up the floor quickly. She scored a team-high 13 points. Roberts and Josey Gosch scored eight points apiece, Becker had six and Megan Turner scored five.

Mulvane will finish off its run through the Douglass Early Season Tournament tonight (Dec. 9), playing the 4 p.m. game against Andale's Indians.