

Shooting Woes

Curtain Call; Girls Limp Away

The Mulvane High School girls only thought they closed the curtain on a bad week when they limped away from the Douglass Early Season Girls Tournament with three straight losses.

Coach Dale Landes and his Wildcats had more of the same troubles Tuesday night, Dec. 14, when they played their first game of the newly formed Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League at El Dorado.

The Wildcats won but it was the OTHER Wildcats. Mulvane's free-fall continued as El Dorado held onto the lead throughout the contest and won a low-scoring 37-26 division over Mulvane High

The loss dropped Coach Landes' Cats to 1-4 for the year, including four in succession after opening the season on a winning note.

"We're just in a shooting funk right now," said Landes. "We continued to shoot the ball very poorly and we're not playing at the tempo I would like to see us playing

at. At El Dorado, we were very lackadaisical and there was no intensity whatsoever."

Two factors led the MHS girls down the wrong path. The first was scoring only six points in the opening half. By intermission, El Dorado held a 17-6 lead. After that, the two teams played evenly. The second was poor free throw shooting. Mulvane hit only six free shots while missing 11.

But the most compelling number was in the 3rd quarter when the two teams battled to a 9-9 draw. MHS was only 2-for-8 at the stripe, which kept Mulvane from making up any ground.

"In reality, most of the shots we are taking are good shots," emphasized Landes. "Sure, there are a few that we take that aren't, but when we run the offense, we get to a good place and we get good shots. We just can't get them to fall."

Usually, a team can turn it up a notch or two defensively when their offense is on a cold streak but the Mulvane girls aren't.

said Landes.

"Defensively, we're not making up for that poor shooting by stepping up at the defensive end," said Landes. "We're really struggling right now with good positioning. We're always out of position to make the good defensive stops and we work on that every day."

Guard Tara Roberts was the top scorer for MHS with seven points. Whitney Becker scored five points and point guard Kristi Parker and guard Abby Sorenson finished with four apiece.

The Wildcat girls in fact a tough week when they were swamped by Andale, 73-39, in the third and final round of the Douglass Early Season Tournament Thursday evening, Dec. 9, at Douglass.

"Once again, we played poorly on defense," said Coach Landes. "Andale beat us badly getting back in transition early and often. They were far more athletic than we were and got out quicker than we did. That quickness really hurt us and led to a lot of lay-ups because we were so slow getting back on defense."

It wasn't much of a game. The Indians started running in the 2nd quarter and rang up a 20-8 edge, then put the game in romp mode by out-scoring Mulvane, 23-10, in the 3rd quarter.

Landes said one factor that only fuelled the Andale transition game was poor shooting by the Wildcats. "We had another poor shooting night," said Landes. "We're just not shooting the ball right now, not from the field nor from the free throw line. And when you're not knocking a few down, you're providing them with the opportunity to get it out and go with it. When a team is shooting badly, you'd better be playing good defense against a team like Andale and we did neither."

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	3	3	9	11-26
El Dorado	8	9	9	11-37
Mulvane--	Laura Buchanan 3,	Whitney Becker 5,	Josey Gosch 3,	Tara Roberts 7,
Abby Sorenson 4,	Kristi Parker 4.	FG 9 (2),	FT 6-17,	F 21
El Dorado--	Caitlin Deen 4,	Calloway 4,	Abby Connell 6,	Kristina Jones 9,
Bannion 2,	Katherine Ward 4,	Anne Mathews 6,	Ladson 2.	FG 11 (0),
FT 15-21,	F 18			

Douglass Early Season Girls Tournament

THIRD ROUND

Andale	15	20	23	15-73
Mulvane	12	8	10	9-39
Andale--	Jessica Martin 10,	Beth Bogner 15,	Amy Steven 10,	Lisa Sobba 4,
Justine Prange 12,	Kim Wetta 4,	Hali Mobley 9,	Emily Gegen 9.	FG 28 (3),
FT 14-20,	F 16.			

Mulvane--Tara Roberts 15, Abby Sorenson 2, Laura Buchanan 4, Whitney Becker 6, Tasha Parman 2, Josey Gosch 7, Amanda Hagerman 1, Caitlin Wise 2. FG 16 (3), FT 4-12, F 21.

Rose Hill 55, Douglass 38

Even though Mulvane has tried to turn its transition game up a notch or two this season, the Cats were no match for Andale. "Even though we like to push the ball offensively, we're not very fast getting back on defense. They were quicker to the ball, they were quicker to the basket, and that really hurt us."

Landes said all three teams in the tournament (Rose Hill, Douglass and Andale) took advantage of the Wildcat's lack of quickness by getting the ball down the court after a missed Mulvane shot and getting good shots off before the defense could set up.

"We tried man to man, we tried zone and we still couldn't get back quick enough," stressed Landes. "We did a poor job of recognizing where they were and Andale did a real good job of tilting the lanes."

Roberts was Mulvane's mainstay offensively. She scored 15 points. Josey Gosch finished with seven points, Whitney Becker had six and Laura Buchanan scored four.

"I think we ended up shooting in the low 30's and they shot above 50%, but you're going to do that when you get so many lay-ups," said the Cat coach.

The Cats will try to get things figured out by the time Wellington comes to town Friday night, Dec. 17, for the final game before the holiday break. Both the Cats and Crusaders will be playing their first Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League game of the season.



Wildcat Tara Roberts (50) tries to rattle Andale player