

Cat Girls Come Up Just Short

The Mulvane High School girls' basketball team is heading in the right direction. The next step will be getting over the top in close games, like the one they had at home against Andover Tuesday night, Dec. 19.

Thanks to some hot three-point shooting, the Wildcats took the visiting Trojans to overtime before falling, 42-41. Mulvane heads into the holiday break 0-3 in AVCTL Division III, 1-5 overall, with their last two losses coming by a total of six points.

Neither team built much of a lead throughout the game. Mulvane led 7-6 after one quarter, but Andover moved ahead 16-14 by halftime. By the end of the third quarter, Andover led 23-20, but a 17-point fourth quarter allowed the Wildcats to tie the game and force overtime. The Trojans won with a slim 5-4 overtime advantage. Mulvane made six three-pointers, taking advantage of Andover's 10-of-25 performance from the free-throw line to stay in the game.

Six different Wildcats scored in the game. Mulvane got nine points from Melinda McKee, eight each from Maddie Wise and Katie Ybarra, seven from Whitney Sullivan, five from Taylor Parsons, and four from Courtney Becker. Andover's Deann Parha led all scorers with 21 points.

The Wildcat junior varsity improved to 3-3 with a 28-19 win over Andover. Mulvane led 13-3 after one quarter and held Andover to just eight field goals for the game. Mulvane got five points from Amanda Burrell, four each from Lauren Miller, Taylor Parsons, and Kristen Lervik, three each from Lindsey Ring, Taylor Bell, and Kelcey Sharpe, and two from Stephanie Wilson.

A slow start may have cost the Wildcats Friday night, Dec. 15, at home against El Dorado. The 'Cats fell behind El Dorado's Wildcats 10-3 after one quarter and came up short in the end, 39-34.

"We had trouble with their size early in the game," said MHS head coach Dale Landes. "We're having trouble so far with taller teams. On top of that, we didn't take care of the ball the way we wanted to. We got to the line more in the second half, and we shot well from the line. We're getting better, but we're still fighting to find consistency."

After falling behind 10-3 after the first quarter, the Wildcats turned up the defense and cut the lead down to three points by halftime, 18-15. A low-scoring third quarter kept the margin at three, 24-21, heading to the fourth period. The two teams traded baskets in the fourth, with El Dorado answering every time Mulvane tried to make a run. In the end, El Dorado made just enough free throws to fight off the Mulvane rally.

Seven different players scored for Mulvane, led by freshman Taylor Parsons with 11 points, seven of them coming from the free-throw line. Mulvane also got eight points from Maddie Wise, four each from Whitney Sullivan and Courtney Becker, three from Stephanie Wilson, and two each from Amanda Burrell and Katie Ybarra. Mulvane only hit nine shots from the floor, including one three-pointer, but were also 15-for-21 from the line.

"Taylor gave us a spark on offense off the bench," said Landes. "She played aggressive basketball on both ends of the court. We've got a lot of younger girls playing big minutes for us, and they've all had their moments. Of course, they're all still adjusting to the varsity level of play. We played well in some areas, but we gave up too many second-chance points and committed too many turnovers. We're actually close to being 3-3 right now, but we're not yet doing enough of the little things necessary to win close games."

The Wildcats' first game after the holiday break will be a home game Friday night, Jan. 5, against AVCTL III rival Augusta, starting at 6 p.m.

Varsity Girls

Andover	6	10	7	14	(5)—42
Mulvane	7	7	6	17	(6)—41

Andover—Banks 10, Mathias 1, Devan Parha 1, Delaney 4, Deann Parha 21, Shields 1, Cooper 4. FG 16 (6), FT 10-25.

Mulvane—Maddie Wise 8, Whitney Sullivan 7, Courtney Becker 4, Katie Ybarra 8, Taylor Parsons 2, Melinda McKee 9. FG 13 (6), FT 5-10.

El Dorado	10	8	6	15	39
Mulvane	3	12	6	13	34

El Dorado—Kyle Bookout 4, Laura Nightingale 3, Kellie Pegg 11, Ross Yorks 2, Shelby McAllister 3, Brittany Brown 11, Megan Flosser 4, Satterfield 1. FG 14 (1), FT 10-19.

Mulvane—Stephanie Wilson 3, Maddie Wise 8, Whitney Sullivan 4, Courtney Becker 4, Katie Ybarra 2, Taylor Parsons 11, Amanda Burrell 2. FG 9 (1), FT 13-21.

Junior Varsity Girls

Andover	3	5	9	2	19
Mulvane	13	6	3	4	28

Andover—Hannan 3, Sprekel 4, Penabete 2, Busch 2, Tobias 3, Cooper 1, Dittus 2. FG 8 (1), FT 2-4.

Mulvane—Stephanie Wilson 2, Lauren Miller 4, Lindsey Ring 3, Taylor Bell 3, Taylor Parsons 4, Kelcey Sharpe 3, Kristen Lervik 4, Amanda Burrell 5. FG 10 (1), FT 7-18.