

# Wildcat Girls Work Toward 'Second Season'

Mulvane High School girls cage coach Gregg Wolgast has had more than two weeks of an "eye-opener" period and he hasn't let any grass grow under the feet of his Wildcats.

The Cats have been working hard in practice during the Christmas break which unofficially started with a beating administered by Valley Center Tuesday, Dec. 19, in a Chisholm Trail League outing at VC. The Hornets shot down the Cats, 67-32, on the strength of a 13-2 run late in the third quarter.

The loss dropped the Wildcat record to 3-2 and 1-1 in the CTL and came on the heels of three consecutive one-point buzzer-beaters. "But it did open our eyes a little," noted Wolgast during the two-week holiday break. "I think the girls felt they needed to do some work and we obviously saw some areas we needed to work on, like playing under control. Everybody's not going to roll over and play dead for us when we come to town. The girls have worked hard in the Christmas break sessions, we've had good attendance. We haven't worked on anything new, just polishing up things we have in there now."

Wolgast identified three areas of "need" and those are areas that have been primary points of focus during the holidays. "We have spent a lot of time working on our man to man defense," said Wolgast. "That's one area we didn't do well in against Valley Center. Shooting is another area. We try to shoot every day to get more consistency and confidence. Thirdly, we have been working on conditioning and trying to have things get more automatic. We don't want to have to think about where we're supposed to go, it should be automatic."

The MHS girls chief feels progress has been made in each of those areas during the



three-hour practices. "During the break, you can go at a more leisurely pace," said Wolgast. "We've had good practices and made progress in these areas, I feel, but I guess we won't find out until Friday night."

That's when the Wildcats swing back into action. Augusta will be in Mulvane for the 1990 lidlifter Friday night, Jan. 5, and it promises to be a key Chisholm Trail game for Mulvane.

"We took five days off at Christmas, then got back into things and we've done a lot of conditioning," said Wolgast. "That's something we haven't been able to work on a lot since the season started because of the number of games we have played."

Wolgast had hoped for a better effort at Valley Center in the final showing of 1989 but the VC quickness and pressure defense

#### Varsity Girls

Mulvane	6	13	16	2	37
Valley Center	10	14	23	16	67

Mulvane- Ticia Nicholson 16, Kendra Banzet 14, Nicole Infinger 4, Tammy Withrow 3, Lisa Heersche 0 FG 17 (0), FT 3-8, F 10.

Valley Center- Heather Jemigan 12, Cheryl Smith 11, Jana Freed 10, Lisa Hornung 8, Paula Alford 6, Kellie Talbot 6, Joy Umholtz 6, Maggie Anderson 6, Lisa Riopel 2. FG 32 (0), FT 3-6, F 12.

#### Junior Varsity

Mulvane	10	11	11	12	46
Valley Center	8	20	5	16	49

Mulvane- Denise Wilson 12, Dawn Hicks 10, Ticia Turner 10, Carrie Taylor 9, Kim Rodriguez 5. FG 21 (0), FT 4-11, F 17.

Valley Center- Lisa Riopel 16, Denise Long 12, Maggie Anderson 7, Kristin Bahre 6, Kellie Talbot 4, Barbie Carroll 2, Teri Gordon 2. FG 21 (0), FT 7-17, F 13.

forced Mulvane to play an up-tempo game. The Cats simply cracked.

"We had too many turnovers early to fall behind and we never were in the game," emphasized Wolgast. "I think we were a little tired from having the two big emotional games three or four nights earlier (one-point victories over Wellington and Goddard). Valley did a good job putting pressure on us and we didn't handle it well. That was the key.

"They pressed us and we had a bunch of turnovers that didn't help us. It also got us going at a faster pace. Even when we got our offense set up, we'd rush things. It was a tempo-type game and they controlled it. We got to running up and down the floor and that's exactly what they wanted us to do. It's not our type of game."

The Hornets, who raised their record to 2-0 in the league and established themselves as the team to beat, jumped out to a 10-6 lead after one period on the strength of a 6-0 spurt near the end of the quarter and never looked back. By halftime, VC was ahead, 24-19, then put the game away in the final quarter by out-scoring Mulvane, 16-2.

Junior forward Ticia Nicholson led the offense with 16 points and junior pivot Kendra Banzet dumped in another 14 as only four players scored for the Cats. Nicole Infinger scored four points and guard Tammy Withrow scored three.

Mulvane appeared to be on its way to victory in the junior varsity contest but VC rallied in the fourth quarter to take a 49-46 decision. Valley notched a 16-12 spread in the final period to take the win.

Coach Scott Swaney's girls were led by sophomores Denise Wilson with 14 points, Dawn Hicks and Tricia Turner with 10 apiece and Carrie Taylor with nine.