

First Victory

Change Of Pace Suits Cat Gals Just Fine

A change of pace is just what the doctor ordered for the Mulvane High School girls.

The Wildcat cagers came out with an aggressive trapping press Tuesday night, Jan. 4, against visiting Augusta and that helped lift the Cats to their first victory of the season, a 62-56 win over the Orioles.

Both teams were fighting for their first win of the year but it was Coach Ron McMahon's Wildcats which went to 1-5 while Augusta slipped to 0-6.

"I thought we had been coming out with little zip so we went to a trap press and also played some man-to-man defense," said McMahon, who notched his first career victory with MHS. "The defensive change seemed to charge us up. We had been coming out slowly in our earlier games and I felt a change of philosophy was needed. It worked because we played better and got some turnovers. We had a lot of defensive changing during the game and we made some mistakes but it didn't hurt us because we got some good floor time from each girl who took the floor."

The Cats and Augusta battled back and forth until Augusta moved out to an eight-point lead in the third quarter before Mulvane grabbed the momentum and the game.

"The trap press created some turnovers and some steals once they got the lead on us and that helped bring us back into the game," stressed McMahon. "We told the girls that we just needed to go to the basket and make something happen. They did and we either got a good shot or got fouled, and when we got fouled, we made the free throws."

Mulvane shot a season-high 25 free throws, making 16, but in the last quarter drive, Mulvane went 9-for-13 at the line as they pulled away.

Mulvane had junior Cody Watson and sophomore Janelle Wenke with big offensive games. Each scored 15 points. Lee Banzet finished with 12 points and Courtney Renfro gave Mulvane four players in double figures with 10 points. Guard Lee Cates scored six points.

"I saw some good things on the floor," added McMahon. "We didn't have as many

Varsity Girls

Augusta	16	10	15	15-56
Mulvane	16	12	11	23-62

Augusta--Becky Burleson 15, Amy Alley 3, Elizabeth Cannon 10, Amie Shelton 13, Ashlee Alley 12, Angela Tran 4. FG 22 (0), FT 12-17, F 22.

Mulvane--Cody Watson 15, Janelle Wenke 15, Courtney Renfro 10, Lee Banzet 12, Heidi Parker 4, Lee Cates 6. FG 23 (0), FT 16-25, F 16.

Junior Varsity Girls

Augusta	12	11	12	5-40
Mulvane	14	7	9	7-37

Augusta--Jill Valkenaar 2, Emily Kittle 4, Brandy VanMeter 18, Brandy Price 8, Michelle Iseman 2, Tiffany Brooks 6. FG 19 (0), FT 2-8, F 14.

Mulvane--Gemi Spatz 4, Jamie Martin 10, Shannon Reed 4, Lee Cates 2, Courtney Renfro 3, Heidi Parker 6, Jamie Hardison 4, Janelle Wenke 4. FG 17 (0), FT 2-7, F 14.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	5	7	13	9-34
Andale	8	17	18	10-53

Mulvane--Lee Banzet 15, Courtney Renfro 6, Gemi Spatz 2, Lee Cates 1, Janelle Wenke 1, Cody Watson 6, Heather Taylor 2, Heidi Parker 1. FG 15-48 (0), FT 4-13, F 16.

Andale--Chris Nilles 20, Kristi Eck 2, Janet Eck 4, Kara Spexarth 12, Brenda Ernst 6, Hennes 3, Kraus 2, Melinda Rau 4. FG 24-53 (0), FT 5-13, F 16.

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	13	4	6	2-25
Andale	10	11	10	14-45

Mulvane--Gemi Spatz 4, Shannon Reed 3, Courtney Renfro 3, Jamie Hardison 2, Janelle Wenke 9, Amanda Larson 2, Valerie Larson 2. FG 11 (0), FT 3-10, F 19.

Andale--Cordell 10, Blasi 2, Kraus 2, Spexarth 4, Simon 8, Penny 2, Wolschleger 4, Eck 9, Kamplong 4. FG 18 (0), FT 9-20, F 13.

turnovers, we had a lot of good passing, we even reversed the ball several times, we had a balanced floor attack both from the left and right, which was good, and our ball handling was much, much better. All those are positive steps."

Augusta also won the junior varsity game. The Cats had the lead after one quarter but managed only single figures in the last three quarters of a 40-37 loss.

Jamie Martin was the lone Cat in double figures, scoring 10 for the Mulvane jayvees. Heidi Parker finished with six points and Gemi Spatz, Shannon Reed, Wenke and Jamie Hardison had four apiece.

Andale used a 17-7 spurt in the second quarter as a springboard to victory when the Mulvane girls came to town for the last game of 1993 for both teams. The Indians battered Mulvane, 53-34.

It was the sixth consecutive defeat for new coach McMahon's Wildcats. "We didn't play well from the start and it finally caught up with us in the second quarter," said McMahon. "We seemed to be evenly matched in the first quarter but they started out-scoring us when we got Cody into foul trouble. She picked up her third foul and we had to sit her down. That gave them an opportunity to open a gap on us and it just kept getting wider the rest of the game. When we have to take Cody out, it hurts us both offensively and defensively. We try to keep her out of foul trouble, naturally."

Before she fouled out, Watson had quite a game. She had a team-high six rebounds, four assists, four steals and also posted six points. "It was her best game overall," noted McMahon. "It was one of her better games even though she didn't score a lot."

Banzet did, however. She shot in 15 points to pace the Wildcat offense. Banzet was the only player in double figures. Second-high honors went to Courtney Renfro and Watson with six points apiece, and Gemi Spatz and Heather Taylor had two points each.

McMahon had high praise for the veteran Banzet, too. "Give Lee Banzet credit," said McMahon. "She is playing sick but gave it everything she had. She's playing hard and you have to give her a lot of credit. It takes a special individual to play hard when you're sick."

McMahon said team was making some defensive changes, too. "We also want to change our defensive philosophy some," added McMahon. "We're working on it. I think as long as the girls keep a positive attitude and keep working hard, we're going in the right direction."

The Cat junior varsity had its hands full against the Andale jayvees, bowing by a 45-25 count. The Wildcats made a game of it in the opening stanza, taking a 13-10, lead but the Indians out-scored MHS, 21-10, to grab the momentum in the second and third quarters.

Janelle Wenke topped the scoring for the Mulvane JVs, hitting for nine points. Guard Gemi Spatz scored four points and both Shannon Reed and Courtney Renfro had three-point games.

The Wildcat girls will be going to Valley Center Friday night, Jan. 7, to tangle with the VC Hornets in a Chisholm Trail League game.