

# What, Me Worry?

## Wildcats Rumble

For most of this season, the Mulvane High School girls have struggled with a series of injuries which have chewed away at the effectiveness of a veteran team.

Coach Jayson Miller decided it was time to stop worrying about that and turn things up a couple of notches. The Wildcats did just that Tuesday night, Jan. 5, when they went to Clearwater for a Chisholm Trail League game against the Indians.

And when the game was over, it was the Indians who were whining about things as the Wildcats throttled Clearwater, 33-27. That squared the Wildcats' log at 3-3 and 1-1 in the league.

"Over the holiday break, we had a chance to work on getting the girls to just step up, whoever was on the court," said Miller. "It was time to stop talking (about injuries) and just get after it. It doesn't matter who is on the floor. What does matter is that we play hard and I think the girls bought into that philosophy."

It worked especially well on defense, as the Cats held their opponents to a season-low score. "We worked a lot of defense during the break, then we went out there and gave up only 27 points. It was our best defensive effort," pointed out Miller. "At halftime, we held Clearwater to only 12 points and I told the girls that the staff was extremely pleased with that. We had been preaching defense all season and I think they finally have started understanding good defense gets things going. We went out and played a lot more zone than we usually do and we trapped quite a bit."

Clearwater sputtered to within a bucket of the lead late in the game but Miller called for more defense. "It's funny," said Miller. "When you're struggling so much as a team you worry about your offense, but I just told the girls not to be concerned about offense and to turn it up on defense. When your defense plays harder, the offense comes."

With top guard Lindsay Kendrick still bothered by an ankle sprain, Miller decided

### Varsity Girls

Mulvane	8	8	8	9-33
Clearwater	10	2	6	9-27
Mulvane--Natalie Turner 6, Jackie McColpin 6, Shiriah Craft 11, Kassie Hargrove 4, Kristin Buchanan 4, Arin Leonard 2.FG 15 (0), FT 3-17, F 14.				
Clearwater--Emily Chambers 7, Delia Lister 4, Ashley Hall 8, Erin Leger 4, Bonnie Charles 2, Jill Gardner 2.FG 11 (2), FT 5-9, F 17.				

to try it without her, hoping one more week off would pay dividends next Tuesday when the Cats go to Circle. That opened the floor for Natalie Turner to get a start and she responded with six points. Senior Shiriah Craft made the most of a start at Clearwater as she scored a team-high 11 points, nine of her points coming in the final half as the Cats succeeded in holding off the Indians.

"Natalie has one of the best jump shots on the team and I've been trying to get her to shoot the ball because she's timid," said Miller. "Shiriah just picked up the slack. She had an outstanding game. Both these girls can score and I think they finally realized that fact tonight."

Guard Jackie McColpin also finished with six points despite playing with a broken nose. She broke it the night before in practice. Veterans Kassie Hargrove and Kristin Buchanan tossed in four points each and Arin Leonard had Mulvane's other two points.

"I think the girls took that first step tonight," said Miller. "Now, it's time for that second step. It's harder to make but its easier to get to."