

# Cold Shooting, Leadership Sink Cats In 1998 Debut Against Rose Hill Girls

Mulvane High School girls coach Kelly Dennis had more time out than field goals Tuesday night, Jan. 6, as her Wildcats got

back to playing basketball.

The Cats were home against Rose Hill in a Chisholm Trail League game, but it was

Rose Hill's Rockets who found the confines of the new MHS gym friendly as they sprinted past the Cats, 49-18.

The loss dropped Mulvane to 3-4 overall and 1-3 in the CTL Division II race. Rose Hill remained undefeated, rolling to its 7th straight win. The Rockets are 2-0 in the league.

"You can't win without shooting," complained Dennis after the game. "We make five field goals the whole game. That makes it extremely tough to win. And we just had no leadership out there. We need to find a leader on this team. If we don't, it's going to be a long season. When things go bad, we don't have anybody wanting to step up and lead. I'm talking about someone who will step up physically or with words. You hear me yelling more than anybody on the floor and that's not how it's supposed to be."

The Cats were hanging in there the first half despite their inability to generate much offense. The Rockets spurted right before intermission to take a 24-14 lead, but it was all Rose Hill in the second half. The undefeated visitors cut loose with 14 straight points in the third quarter, holding Mulvane without a point in that period.

"They hit a couple of shots early in the third quarter and that's when we needed the leadership," said Dennis. "I was happy to be down only by 10 points. We didn't shoot the ball but we played good defense in the first half to stay close. Twice, we had the ball with a chance to cut the lead to single digits and we didn't score either time. Everybody got their heads down and they started rolling. That's when we needed to have someone step up and get the team going, but no one did."

And as the score mounted, the Wildcats seemed to fade away. "I was really disappointed," said Dennis. "We were coming off our best practice of the year (Monday) but once they got those baskets, I thought we quit. We've always fought to the end in previous games, but not tonight."

In earlier games, the MHS girls have been scrappy in the boards, holding their own and staying in games with their rebounding even when the offense struggled, but Dennis said she didn't see any of that "scrappiness" against Rose Hill. "They just whipped us on the boards, too," said Dennis. "We probably shot 15% from the field and they beat us badly on the boards."

Only four players scored for Mulvane. Junior Shelley Richards was tops with eight points. Jackie McColpin came off the bench to throw in five points, senior Melissa Buchanan scored three and guard Lindsay Kendrick had two. The team's No. 1 scorer, sophomore Kassie Hargrove, was held scoreless.

In the junior varsity game Tuesday night, the Cats went on an 11-0 spree in the second quarter, which carried Coach Dale Landes' girls to a 26-24 edge against RH.

Kristal LaPlant was the leading scorer with eight points, but it was Piper Roy hitting all six of her points in the second quarter that sparked the win. Shiriah Craft finished with five points.

Varsity Girls				
Rose Hill	18	6	14	11-49
Mulvane	6	8	0	4-18
Rose Hill--Brandi Erdman 21, Jessica Tracy 2, Summer Peerson 9, Katie Woodrow 1, Martha Randall 6, Chelsea Stancoff 10. FG 21 (5), FT 2-3, F 12.				
Mulvane--Lindsay Kendrick 2, Jackie McColpin 5, Kassie Hargrove 0, Melissa Buchanan 3, Shelley Richards 8. FG 6 (1), FT 5-10, F 8.				

Junior Varsity Girls				
Rose Hill	9	0	4	11-24
Mulvane	4	11	4	7-26
Rose Hill--Regan Jacobsen 2, Bonnie Addington 5, Jessica Tracy 6, Jennifer Draper 3, Martha Randall 2, Lindsay Anthis 3, Kara Brockmeier 3. FG 9 (1), FT 5-15, F 14.				
Mulvane--Arlin Leonard 2, Natalie Turner 2, Andrea Hufford 3, Shiriah Craft 5, Kristal LaPlant 8, Piper Roy 6. FG 11 (0), FT 4-12, F 14.				

The Cat girls coach tried to get a little extra emphasis on offense over the Christmas break and hopes it will pay off in the next two months. "I just didn't feel like we did much offensively the first few games," said Dennis, noting that her Wildcats averaged under 40 points a game while going 3-3 in their first six outings. "I have been pretty pleased with the zone defense we're running because we're keeping people to under 45 points a game (42.7). you do that and you should be winning every game. So, we spent a lot more time on our offense trying to get things going, trying to get more shots closer to the basket."

Dennis, who promised to have a new offense going this season, has had to put that on hold in favor of running something familiar in hopes of someone catching fire offensively. "I can't even blame our production on the new offense because we haven't run it much," stressed the Cat girls coach. "It's just a matter of some of our girls becoming more offensively minded. Offense is just finding a way to score, and right now, there is still a little insecurity with the girls and their ability to score."

Dennis believes there is offensive firepower there. It just hasn't floated to the surface. "Certainly Kassie can score and so can Kristin," said Dennis. "We need players like Kristin to step up and give us some points. She is one of the ones who can create her own shots."

Through the Wildcats' December schedule, the sophomore Hargrove is the leading scorer with about a 12-point average and senior Melissa Buchanan is averaging around the 10-point mark. Kendrick, a guard, is next with about seven points a game and Shelley Richards is next with a 5-point average.

Dennis gave the team several days off at Christmas, then hit it full blast Monday, Dec. 29, in preparation for the first days of January (Rose Hill and Clearwater). Right now, those two teams are at the top of the heap in the Chisholm Trail League Division II standings.

"We can rebound with most teams. We have rebounded with the teams we've been playing," said Dennis. "I have no qualms about that. And we're getting to more loose balls than ever before. we just need to get the offense perked up as we head into the middle of the schedule."

The girls' next game will be Friday night, Jan. 9, when they travel to Clearwater for a big game against the Indians.



Cats Jackie McColpin (30) and Melissa Buchanan (40) grab a rebound against RH