

'A' For Cat Passing Game

Every game is a building block for the Mulvane High School basketball girls and Friday night, they finished the entire next addition all in one swoop.

The Wildcats hammered the boards, pounded the passing lanes, poured down the floor and nailed Andover's girls convincingly, 57-26, in the first game following the holiday break.

Did I say it was a Chisholm Trail League game? Dam tootin' it was, and the victory left the Cats at 5-1 overall and 1-1 in Division I of the CTL.

In the junior varsity game, Andover sprinted to the lead in the second quarter and held on for a 29-21 victory over the Cat jayvees. Mulvane's JV girls ended 2000 on a high note when they throttled Augusta, 38-30, in their last game before the holidays.

"This same Andover team beat us by 30 a year ago and they have only one player missing from that team," pointed out Coach Jayson Miller. "So it was good from that standpoint. I think this one felt pretty good to our girls. Every game is a building block for us. We're just trying to put one on top of another and see how far we can go."

It didn't take long for the "carpenters" to get to work. The Cats hustled out to a 15-9 lead in the first quarter and were up by nine at halftime. They put the exclamation point on in the last two quarters, however, outscoring the Trojans, 32-10, including holding Andover to only one point in the 3rd quarter.

"I think this game is the first time we got our offense going this year," said Miller. "It was clicking and I would say that was the difference in the game. We really passed the ball well inside all night. We had 18 assists overall and when you can spread it out like the girls did, it's nothing but good. It was our best passing game of the year."

Guard Melissa Doerfer, Kari Leonard, LaShelle Parker and senior Jackie Burkhart had three assists each.

That led to some of the best balance in the scoring department this year. Junior Sami Booth finally found her game, scoring a season-best 16 points. Juniors Kris Lazar

and Parker also were in double figures with 14 and 13 points, respectively. Doerfer scored six and four others had points.

"We've been really stressing defense so much that it's kind of overshadowed our offense," added Miller. "I wasn't overall pleased with our outside defense, but our inside defense was pretty strong. In the perimeter, we played good enough to get the job done but we didn't play as good as we can. I think we can clean that up a little and that will make us a little stronger team."

"On the inside, we had a good defensive game and maybe that's why our outside defense wasn't as good because our guards were digging down inside to help," added Miller. "We tried to focus on taking away their inside game and I thought the girls did a really good job of it."

Andover tried to play the Cats man-to-man, perhaps taking a page out of the Valley Center book. The VC Hornets ate the Cats up playing "man" defense. "Andover tried to but it didn't work very well," said Miller. "I think the girls just got into a groove and our inside game started hitting and that opened everything up for us. It was definitely a big factor that we were aggressive with the ball. We made some nice passes inside to our post people and our guards (Doerfer, Burkhart and Leonard) did a great job of it."

The Cats also smacked the visitors around on the boards. Booth grabbed 10 boards and Lazar was nearly in double figures. Parker got her normal share, too.

"Overall, it was a good win to get under our belts," suggested Miller. "We have three big games coming up and the girls are anxious to see how we stack up."

Varsity Girls

Andover	9	7	1	9-26
Mulvane	15	10	8	24-57
Andover—Jessica Hamilton 9, Allyson Knight 5, Tasha Smades 1, Melanie Fox 2, Jocelyn Kennedy 1, Briann Ash 2, Amy Biggs 4, Allie Ek 2. FG 10 (0), FT 6-13, F 21.				
Mulvane—Jackie Burkhart 2, Melissa Doerfer 6, Kris Lazar 14, Sami Booth 16, LaShelle Parker 13, Andrea Valerio 2, Shayna Duncan 2, Kayla Linnebur 2. FG 22 (0), FT 13-23, F 16.				

Junior Varsity Girls

Andover	2	13	8	6-29
Mulvane	8	4	4	5-21
Andover—Moran 2, McEwen 4, Wadsworth 2, B. Pennington 2, Smith 2, Quinn 4, Nelson 2, Huelskamp 6, Weimer 3, Reynolds 2. FG 13 (0), FT 3-8, F 12.				
Mulvane—Michelle Dinkel 2, Emily Turner 2, Shayna Duncan 9, Nicole Hackley 4, Kari Leonard 2, Lacie Leatherman 2. FG 10 (0), FT 1-4, F 17.				
Augusta	6	7	6	11-30
Mulvane	13	8	8	9-38
Augusta—Clark 2, Carr 2, Dreiling 2, Hahn 8, Rinkenbaugh 3, Usher 9, Schwemmer 2, Loveless 2. FG 11 (0), FT 8-16, F 14.				
Mulvane—Shayna Duncan 11, Kari Leonard 2, Sami Booth 2, LaShelle Parker 6, Janie Wilkinson 2, Cristen Richards 2, Emily Turner 8, Nicole Hackley 3, Lacie Leatherman 2. FG 15 (0), FT 8-13, F 16.				

In the jayvee game, Andover bounced from an 8-2 deficit to gain a 15-12 halftime lead and pulled away. Freshman Shayna Duncan led the MHS jayvees with nine points. Nicole Hackley finished with four points.

In the last home game of 2000, the JV Wildcats made the most of an early spurt to win it. Duncan finished with 11 points. Emily Turner scored eight points, Parker scored six points and Hackley had three.

The Cat girls will take on an always tough Andale team at Andale Friday night, Jan. 12, before entertaining Buhler Friday, Jan. 19, in the last game before the girls' tournament week. Buhler is undefeated and leading the CTL Division I and Andale is on top in Division II.