

Wildcats Dig Deeper

It was time to dig a little deeper and the Mulvane High School girls dug all the way to China it seemed Tuesday night, Jan. 15, in a battle of area powerhouses in Rose Hill.

Mulvane and Rose Hill were expected to be two of the tougher girls' teams around, and that expectation was played out in full Tuesday as the desperate Wildcats drilled the Rockets, 65-53, in a non-league game.

Fresh from chilling back-to-back disasters, it was "gut check" time for the Wildcat girls.

"Going into the game, we had a lot of doubts, yes," admitted Gregg Wolgast, the MHS girls chief. "We really needed a win even though we had played better in our last game. We still lost it. Tuesday night, there was no time that we lost our intensity to let them make a run at us. We kept playing hard and we kept the lead throughout. This is something this team has to do.

"And I think it was important for Kendra (Banzet) to have a game like she had. She hadn't been taking enough shots and we hadn't been getting the ball into her. I believe we have to make people stop her first."

Rose Hill never did, or at least didn't until the game trend was set. Banzet pumped in 22 points in the first half as the Wildcats scurried to a 39-25 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, Rose Hill decided to try and stop the 6-foot, 3-inch Banzet and that's when senior Ticia Nicholson started freeing up deep in the paint and guard Lisa Heersche started finding the outside range again.

All those things were important to a team that has just lost the two biggest games of the season by 27 points and 10.

"There were a lot of things that went into the win," added Wolgast. "Lisa got a couple baskets early and they came out on

her. That opened it up inside for Kendra. Another critical key was Tricia Turner. She scored only one point but she did a great job. She got the ball to the right people and everybody reacts to what she does."

From a defensive standpoint, no job was tougher than the one Kerri Taylor (and Dawn Hicks later in the game) had, trying to put the clamps on RH's 24-point scorer Lynda Gregory. "Taylor did a super job on her," pointed out Wolgast. "She was man-to-man on her all night and did a remarkable job. She didn't let her bring the ball up the floor and I think the girl got a little frustrated."

Gregory-picked up three fouls early and fouled out later with 13 points, well under her average.

Banzet finished with a spectacular night, 28 points as she led the hot-shooting Wildcats, who made 56% from the field. Heersche had another great night with 17 points while Nicholson responded with 14.

The jayvee game was an abbreviated affair because the Cats were down to only five players because of injuries. The Rockets edged Mulvane, 18-15.

Sophomore Sheila Mills led all scorers with 11 points. Robin Smith and Hicks had two apiece to close the scoring out.

The Cats' couldn't find their stride in a make-up game Monday night, Jan. 14, as

the host Orioles dropped Mulvane, 72-62, in a crucial CTL game.

Heersche pumped in a career-high 21 points, Banzet had 16 and Nicholson scored nine.

There was no jayvee game played.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	16	23	12	14	65
Rose Hill	15	12	12	14	53

Mulvane: Ticia Turner 1, Kendra Banzet 28, Kern Taylor 3, Robin Smith 2, Ticia Nicholson 14, Lisa Heersche 17. FG 29 (0), FT 7-18, F 17.

Rose Hill: Brandi Nickell 3, Barb Harnett 15, Lynda Gregory 13, Shelly Swaney 10, Delena Dyson 4, Tehni Lutanen 8. FG 21 (0), FT 11-18, F 17.

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	6	5	2	2	15
Rose Hill	4	1	7	6	18

Mulvane: Robin Smith 2, Sheila Mills 11, Dawn Hicks 2, Deva Lewis 0, Anna Turner 0. FG 7 (0), FT 1-4, F 11.

Rose Hill: Brandi Nickell 6, Gina Brockmeier 4, Jill Jackson 4, Stephanie Thomison 2, Jenny Reimschisel 2. FG 8 (0), FT 2-8, F 9.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	17	21	10	14	62
Augusta	20	22	13	17	72

Mulvane: Lisa Heersche 21, Ticia Nicholson 9, Tricia Turner 4, Kendra Banzet 16, Kern Taylor 2, Dawn Hicks 4, Kristin Kuntz 2, Jenny Ray 4. FG 24-35 (0), FT 14-29, F 21.

Augusta: Megan Little 26, Paula Rodriguez 13, Shannon Shryock 11, Bonnie Jackson 10, Rikki Rogers 6, Samantha Restivo 4, McCalla 2. FG 24-56 (4), FT 20-29, F 22.

Junior Varsity Girls

No game against Augusta