

Girls Fall To 5-3

Lions Plug Up Wildcat Heroics

The free throw lane isn't big enough for 10 people to stand around in it. That's what Goddard did successfully Friday night, Jan. 12, when Mulvane High School's girls came to town.

The Lions packed the lane tighter than a can of sardines and effectively took away the inside game as Goddard avenged an earlier one-point loss to Mulvane with a 44-37 triumph in a Chisholm Trail League game.

The loss saw Mulvane's record dip to 5-3 and 3-2 overall. The Cats had slipped past Goddard in December by a 43-42 count in overtime.

"Goddard did a good job packing it in," admitted MHS girls coach Gregg Wolgast. "They came out in a man-to-man in the first quarter and went to their zone in the second half and we never adjusted. We got to standing around and not moving and they made it very difficult to get it inside. That caused us to try and force it in and that didn't work."

The third quarter was disaster for Mulvane. Goddard out-scored Mulvane, 6-2, in the period, then pulled away in the fading seconds.

"A zone sometimes causes you to start standing around and that's what we did," said Wolgast. "This just wasn't one of our better ball games. We didn't shoot the ball well, we didn't play defense with the intensity we needed."

Usually, teams can attack a packed-in zone with some good outside gunning and good ball movement one way, then quick passes back to the weakside to get the ball inside then. However, the Wildcats' outside shooters didn't hit for the most part and the standing around also hampered a quick passing game.

"I guess at halftime, they decided to pack it in the lane and make somebody else beat them," added Wolgast. "We gave their zone too much time to adjust to the ball movement. Most of the league teams are playing more man-to-man and we do well against a man-to-man. This is the first time this year that a team has come out and really packed it in with a zone."

Wolgast said he worked the team out Saturday and changed his offense in an effort to make it easier to get the ball inside.

The Lions took away the "Twin Towers," Mulvane's one-two punch of juniors Kendra Banzet and Ticia Nicholson, or they took away half of it anyway. Banzet still scored her 17 points, hitting eight of 10 shots, but Nicholson had trouble finding her way in the maze around the basket. "Ticia gets a lot of her scoring off the offensive boards and they had so many people around the basket that she didn't get any offensive rebounds," noted Wolgast. "She wasn't able to get her normal game going."

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	12	8	2	15-37
Goddard	12	7	6	19-44
Mulvane—Nicole Infinger 2, Tammy Withrow 11, Tricia Turner 2, Ticia Nicholson 3, Lisa Heersche 2, Kendra Banzet 17. FG 17-39 (1), FT 2-5, F 20.				
Goddard—Lori Cunningham 4, Carla Craig 7, Marni Harrison 2, Brandi Murray 10, Nancy Summers 11, Erika Plagge 10. FG 15-33 (0), FT 14-24, F 11.				

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	4	7	8	8-27
Goddard	6	10	8	11-35
Mulvane—Tammy Withrow 2, Kerri Taylor 4, Kim Rodriguez 8, Jenny Ray 1, Lisa Heersche 2, Dawn Hicks 1, Denise Wilson 10. FG 9-37 (0), FT 8-11, F 12.				
Goddard—Amy Major 11, Lori Cunningham 4, Kristen Hanks 4, Erika Plagge 2, Ann Arnold 6, Marni Harrison 2, Sarah Jeter 5. FG 12-31 (0), FT 7-15, F 12.				

In fact, Mulvane picked off only three offensive boards, one each by Nicholson, Lisa Heersche and Nicole Infinger. Banzet didn't have any boards at the offensive end and finished with six.

Still, with minutes to play, the Wildcats had an opportunity to pull another one out of the fire—but it never happened. "We started our pressing game in the fourth quarter and had the lead cut down to two points several times but they made their free throws," said Wolgast, remembering the earlier game. "They let us back in the game last time when they missed their free throws down the stretch, but they made them this time."

With 30 seconds left, Mulvane still had a chance to win it. Six points behind, Wildcat sophomore Tammy Withrow nailed a three-pointer and the defense forced a turnover moments later. However, another three-pointer went astray and that forced Mulvane to foul.

"We didn't have one of our best games and when you don't, this happens" stressed Wolgast. "We were getting good shots when they were dropping back to cover our inside game and we didn't hit them. If we could have, we would have forced them out. And they did a good job of taking Kendra out of the ball game by putting someone in front of her as well as behind."

Still, Banzet finished with a game-high 17 points. Withrow finished with 11 points but after that, the Cat output dropped to three points by Nicholson.

The Wildcat junior varsity saw their record drop another notch as Goddard hung a 44-37 defeat on Coach Scott Swaney's jayvees. Mulvane is now 1-3.

Kim Rodriguez led Mulvane's scorers with eight points. Next-best were three players with one bucket each—Tricia Turner, Kerri Taylor and Lisa Heersche.

Mulvane will venture onto the court again Friday night, Jan. 19, to play at home against Wellington in the final game prior to the Wildcat Girls Classic, which starts next week (see pairings elsewhere on this page).