

Tourney Begins Monday

Cat Girls Stumped By Maize

A dry spell in the first quarter put Mulvane High School's girls in a hole and they never recovered Friday night, Jan. 17, in a Chisholm Trail League loss at home against Maize.

The visiting Eagles soared early, taking a 12-4 lead, and that lead stood up throughout the 48-44 conquest.

It was the 8th consecutive loss for Coach Gregg Wolgast's Wildcats, who are now 1-9 for the year and a dismal 0-5 in the CTL.

"We just got down early and never could catch up," said Wolgast. "We actually played pretty good basketball, though, after the first quarter. We did a lot better job making adjustments defensively to stop the

inside shots they were getting early.

"I feel a lot better after Friday night's game," added Wolgast. "We played hard. We had some chances at the end of the game. We could have cut the lead to one or tied it up but we didn't quite get there. I told the girls if they continue to play hard, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. We need a win, though, to get the confidence back. It's hard to go out there and get losses. We need to get one to get us back on the winning track."

It wasn't Friday night, though, as Maize's junior, Hope Dent, scored 26 points, the first time she's been in double figures all season long.

"The first quarter really hurt," added Wolgast. "They shot the ball well and were rotating people through on the back side of our zone and we weren't picking them up. Our younger kids weren't recognizing that, and it took us most of the first half to get it stopped. We hadn't seen much of that style of offense this season. At halftime, they switched their offense because we were starting to shut it off."

By that time, though, the damage was done. With frontline starters Sheila Mills (sprained ankle) and Denise Wilson (fouls) having troubles and another former frontline player, Dawn Hicks, no longer on the squad, Wolgast had to dip a little deeper. "I thought the sophomores did pretty good," he plugged. "They came in and gave us a lot of good time, did everything we asked of them. For a time in the third quarter, we had (sophomores Kendra) Mow, (Lee) Banzet, (Heather) Pearman and (Stephanie) Schultz all in the game at the same time. They lack some technique, but they worked hard to make up for that lack of experience."

The Wildcats couldn't match up at times with Wilson and Mills having to come out. "We got a little short-handed and when we had the smaller line-up in there, they took advantage of it," said Wolgast. "Late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, they were bigger than we were and that let to a lot of put-backs off the offensive boards. We had five out there playing hard all the time. That was a first for having five going all out on the floor."

The Cats seem to have solved their pressure problems for now, anyway. In the past few games, the turnovers have mounted as the opposition put the heat on the throw in



Lee Banzet, Stephanie Schultz (5) smother Maize shooter

or took away guard Tricia Turner. "We changed some things around on our press offense, which helped take the pressure off the in-bounder," said Wolgast. "She had more options to throw to, and we did a better job in that respect. That has been hurting us the last few games. I think Maize only got one or two turnovers off its press all night, and that's not a bad accounting."

Still, Mulvane had 19 turnovers to only 12 for the Eagles. And Maize also won the battle of the boards, 28-27. Mills had six boards and Wilson and Mow had five apiece.

In the scoring department, Mills and Wilson again were the big guns. Mills

scored 15 points and Wilson had 14. Turner, a veteran senior, scored 11 points and had eight assists, a team high.

The Mulvane junior varsity tumbled to its sixth straight loss, Maize winning on a 24-13 count.

Banzet's eight points paced the Cat jayvees on offense. Marcy Arnold and Mow had two points each and the final score came from Anna Turner.

The MHS girls will be back on the hardwoods again Friday night, Jan. 24, when they entertain a tough Goddard quintet before playing host in the annual Wildcat Girls Invitational, which opens Monday, Jan. 27, with four first-round games.

Wildcat Girls Invitational Pairings

Monday, Jan. 27

Game 1 — Garden Plain (7-0) vs. Clearwater (1-7), 5:30 p.m.

Game 2 — Circle (6-2) vs. Wellington (5-4), 7

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Game 3 — Wichita South (8-2) vs. Andover (2-6), 5:30 p.m.

Game 4 — Winfield (8-2) vs. Mulvane (2-8), 7

Thursday, Jan. 30

Game 5 — losers of games 1 and 2, 3:30 p.m.

Game 6 — losers of games 3 and 4, 5:15

Game 7 — winners of games 1 and 2, 7

Game 8 — winners of games 3 and 4, 8:45

Saturday, Feb. 1

Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of games 5 and 6, 3:30 p.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 6, 5:15

Game 11 (Third Place)—losers of games 7 and 8, 7

Game 12 (Championship)—winners of games 7 and 8, 8:15

MULVANE

Sports

Varsity Girls

Maize 12 11 11 14-48

Mulvane 4 14 12 14-44

Maize—Merodith Whitmer 9, Hope Dent 26, Melissa Martinez 1, Jenny Schuster 10, Jill Myrick 2. FG 16-36 (0), FT 16-26, P 21.

Mulvane—Sheila Mills 15, Denise Wilson 14, Lee Banzet 2, Heather Pearman 2, Tricia Turner 11. FG 17-33 (0), FT 10-21, P 25.

Junior Varsity Girls

Maize 7 9 4 4-24

Mulvane 2 3 2 6-13

Maize—Julie Myrick 6, Shawn Pivonka 11, Toni Ransch 2, Jill Myrick 2, Jenny Loonard 3. FG 10-26 (0), FT 3-7, F 6.

Mulvane—Anna Turner 1, Kendra Mow 2, Lee Banzet 8, Marcy Arnold 2, Marianne Smyser 0. FG 11-16 (0), FT 1-4, F 11.