

Girls Tournament Speed Kills; Cats Find Out

Garden Plain borrowed a page out of the new defensive philosophy of the Mulvane High School girls and used that page to smother the Wildcats, 77-45, Tuesday night, Jan. 25, in the opening round of the 14th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic.

The Owls pressured the Mulvane ball-handlers, ran the floor and out-quickened the Wildcats in three of the four quarters, dropping Coach Ron McMahon's girls into the loser's bracket.

In other first-round games, Circle stopped Clearwater, 50-43, Tuesday night, and on Monday, Andover smoked Wellington, 68-42, and Winfield dropped Wichita South, 45-30.

The host Cats will play Clearwater at 5:15 today (Jan. 27) in a semifinal game.

"The first quarter really hurt us," said McMahon. What they did was took us out of our game plan. They rattled our cage a lot, put a great deal of pressure on the ball and caused a lot of turnovers. They did the same thing in the third quarter. They played very aggressive defense. It's as simple as that. They had an excellent, quick team and they could all put the ball on the floor and go to the hoop."

The Owls, tournament champs in 1989 and 1990, squirted out to a 19-8 lead after one quarter before the Cats got things together, coming back to within six at one point in the second quarter. "We just ran out of gas," said McMahon. "It's not that the girls are not in shape, but we couldn't keep up with their quickness."

Lee Banzet, a senior, popped in 12 points to pace the Mulvane offensive. Inside players Cody Watson and Janelle Wenke each had 10 points and Heather Taylor scored four.

Cut down on mistakes and and turnovers and good things will happen. That's what the Mulvane High School girls were thinking at Goddard Friday night, Jan. 21, in their final tune-up for tournament play.

Nice thought.

The Cats turned down the mistakes and turnovers and turned up the heat on the press and rolled out to a 47-33 triumph in a Chisholm Trail League game. MHS is 4-2 in the league.

"Our new defensive philosophy held up and we really got after the ball with a lot of pressure," stressed McMahon. "That forced a lot of turnovers and created a lot of offense for us. I think the biggest thing, though, is that we cut down on our mistakes and turnovers. I was happy about that. We had been averaging quite a few turnovers. We reduced that number and anytime you do that, it helps."

It also helped to get a quick start. The Cats broke out to an 11-point lead in the first quarter and by intermission, Mulvane was in charge by a 28-12 count as the pressing, swarming defense took its toll.

"Goddard couldn't handle our pressure,"



Lady Wildcat Classic Pairings

TONIGHT (JAN. 27)

Game 5 — Wichita South vs. Wellington, 3:30 p.m.

Game 6 — Mulvane vs. Clearwater, 5:15

Game 7 — Winfield vs. Andover, 7

Game 8 — Garden Plain vs. Circle, 8:45

SATURDAY, JAN. 29

Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of games 5 and 6, 2 p.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 6, 3:45

Game 11 (Third Place)—losers of games 7 and 8, 5:30

Game 12 (Championship)—winners of games 7 and 8, 7:30

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 8 21 4 12—45

Garden Plain 19 17 15 26—77

Mulvane—Janelle Wenke 10, Cody Watson 10, Courtney Renfro 2, Heather Taylor 4, Lee Cates 2, Lee Banzet 12, Shannon Reed 2, Kristi McDowell 3. FG 15 (0), FT 15-28, F 30.

Garden Plain—Janelle Rausch 23, Jessa Schauf 14, Rachelle Panek 19, Leah Weber 5, Amy Fisher 8, Jalayne Gerber 2, Christine Haines 4, Amy Puetz 2. FG 27 (1), FT 20-37, F 27.

Circle 50, Clearwater 43

Winfield 45, Wichita South 30

Andover 68, Wellington 42

Varsity Girls

Mulvane 17 11 11 8—47

Goddard 6 6 7 10—33

Mulvane—Lee Banzet 14, Cody Watson 11, Gayle Samuelson 2, Janelle Wenke 6, Marcy Arnold 6, Courtney Renfro 8. FG 21 (2), FT 3-8, F 20.

Goddard—Elaine Fleetwood 6, Jones 2, Skach 13, Amy Poland 2, Schneider 2, Mandy Johnson 4. FG 15 (0), FT 13-25, F 14.

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane 5 3 6 2—16

Goddard 7 4 2 1—14

Mulvane—Jamie Martin 2, Heather Taylor 6, Heidi Parker 2, Shannon Reed 4, Valerie Larson 2. FG 7 (0), FT 2-6, F 6.

Goddard—Pracht 1, Schneider 11, Edmonds 0, Brown 0, Jones 2. FG 6 (0), FT 2-2, F 6.

said the MHS coach. "Courtney Renfro does a great job of anticipation, Lee Cates is at the point and leads them to one side or the other, Cody Watson has great timing and anticipation and makes a lot of steals and Lee Banzet and Janelle Wenke makes things happen."

And when the defense is forcing turnovers, the Wildcat offense is clicking. The senior Banzet poked in 14 points. Watson was in double figures with 11. Renfro scored eight points and both Wenke and senior Marcy Arnold scored six points.

"I think the one attribute of this team that is impressive is that everybody is out for the team," said McMahon. "Everybody is working toward unselfish play and we're seeing the results on the court. That's the key to our success."

The Wildcats also measured out a victory in the junior varsity game at Goddard. The Cats held on for a 16-14 triumph. Heather Taylor was high with six points and Shannon Reed scored four.