

First Round

Mulvane Girls Stumble In Classic Opener

Can you start a game any worse? Not and show up

That's the way Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller felt following the Wildcats' opening game Monday night, Jan. 24, in the 20th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic.

The host Cats started the tournament with Andover and the Trojans blasted out of the starting blocks on the way to a 57-28 victory. In the other first-night game, Garden Plain sailed past Wellington, 54-38.

The loss dumped the Wildcats into the loser's bracket semifinal for a 4 p.m. date with Wellington's Crusaders Friday, Jan. 28. The 5th place game will be at 3:45 Saturday afternoon and the 7th place game is at 2.

The Trojans rumbled to an 18-7 lead at the first quarter break and had a 12-point lead at halftime. They put the game away in the third quarter by out-scoring Mulvane, 15-2.

"We just didn't play very well, we weren't ready to step on the floor, and I take

responsibility for that," said Miller. "We need to be ready to play when we step onto the floor. They physically dominated us inside. They were big and strong."

And Andover threw cold water on the latest Cat hot streak. "They were fundamentally good and did a lot of screening," pointed out Miller. "We didn't do a very good job of getting through the screens or talking to each other. Consequently, they got a lot of good looks at the basket off their screens. In the second half, we just got frustrated with the situation and didn't handle it well at all and it just steamrolled on us."

Miller was disappointed in his offense after five straight solid games. "We didn't do a very good job of working the ball around," said Miller, whose ball club slipped to 4-5 on the year. "We worked it on one side only. The girls didn't move the ball to the other side of the offense. I give their defense all the credit in the world. We didn't stick with what we had been doing the last

two weeks, which is good ball movement and working both sides of the defense before finding people open inside. It didn't do that at all."

Which made Mulvane easy to defend, which is shown in the lowest scoring output of the season: 28 points.

"When that happens, you have to start finding a way to get around it and we didn't," added Miller. "We only scored 11 points in the second half, so that's as poor of a second half as we've had offensively this season."

Gone was the scoring balance. Gone was the output. Sophomore center LaShelle Parker had eight points but nobody else stepped up to the challenge. Arin Leonard scored six points and both Kim Mangus and Kris Lazar had four points.

Going into the first game of the year with an inexperienced squad, nobody dreamed the MHS girls would be in a heavyweight title match later in the year but

they were. And it took Andale nearly three quarters to throw the knockout punch.

The visiting Indians, the Class 4A defending state champs, had their hands full with the spunky Cats until the last three minutes of the third quarter. Andale exploded on a 17-0 run which broke the game up and paved the way for a 56-48 Andale triumph over the MHS girls Friday night, Jan. 21.

"Our girls really came out ready to play," emphasized Coach Miller. "We played great ball except the last 45 seconds of the first half when they went on a 6-0 run and tied the game at halftime, 20-20, and that 17-0 run late in the game. Even after that, our girls battled back and made a game of it, but we had dug just too deep of a hole for ourselves."

Andale came into the contest on top in the Chisholm Trail League and left Mulvane with a 6-0 CTL record. Mulvane had been on a hot streak, winning three in a row, but slipped to a 3-2 record in the league and 4-5 overall.

Mulvane Wildcat

Girls Classic

Friday, Jan. 28

Game 5 -- Mulvane vs. Wellington, main gym, 4 p.m.

Game 6 -- Clearwater vs. Campus, auxiliary gym, 4

Game 7 -- Arkansas City vs. Andale, 6

Game 8 -- Andover vs. Garden Plain, 7:45

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 (First Place)--winners of games 7 and 8, 7:30

"Playing for the league lead was a good thing for these girls," admitted Miller. "They came into that situation and answered the opening whistle. Our kids weren't nervous, they weren't intimidated by Andale. They went right out and took Andale on, but I think Andale proved they were the best team in the league Friday night."

The Wildcats launched the early salvo, talking a 14-10 lead over the Indians but by halftime, the game was tied when Andale went on its first streak, scoring the last six points of the half. Then, there was the third quarter and the matter of 17 points in a row.

The game deteriorated with about 3:30 left in the 3rd quarter and Mulvane looking good with a 28-25 lead before the explosion. "I thought we got a little sloppy late in the quarter and that was the ball game," explained Miller. "They went on their run and put some distance between us and them."

Sophomore Kim Mangus led the Mulvane onslaught with 12 points but she had plenty of help from sophomore Kris Lazar (10 points), sophomore LaShelle Parker (8 points) and senior Arin Leonard (8 points). Freshman Melissa Doerfer and junior Kari Leonard scored four points each.

In the junior varsity game, Mulvane couldn't overcome a slow start and Andale trounced the Cat JVs, 50-30. The Indians jumped ahead quickly, 14-6, in the first frame and by intermission, held a 26-10 lead.

For Coach Dale Landes' jayvee girls, Michelle Dinkel led the way with eight points. Jackie Burkhart scored seven points and Sam Booth had six.

20th Annual Wildcat

Girls Classic

FIRST ROUND

Andover 18 11 15 13--57

Mulvane 7 10 2 9--28

Andover -- Kim Elsham 6, Carrie Kirkendoll 4, Jessica Hamilton 3, Allyson Knight 20, Amy Biggs 5, Allie Ek 2, Melanie Fox 6, Tasha Smades 4, Briann Ash 4, Brynn Weimer 2, Alicia Allison 1. FG 23 (4), FT 7-12, F 16

Mulvane -- LaShelle Parker 8, Kim Mangus 4, Kris Lazar 4, Arin Leonard 6, Kari Leonard 2, Andrea Valerio 2, Karisa Ward 1, Jackie Burkhart 1. FG 11 (2), FT 4-14, F 14

Garden Plain 57, Wellington 38

Andale 55, Clearwater 25

Arkansas City 72, Campus 42

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Varsity Girls

Mulvane 14 6 8 20--48

Andale 10 10 22 14--56

Mulvane -- Kim Mangus 12, Arin Leonard 8, LaShelle Parker 8, Kris Lazar 10, Kari Leonard 4, Natahe Turner 2, Melissa Doerfer 4

Andale -- Katie Gathin 8, Kim Thome 16, Dani Eck 8, Tracy Patry 12, Jackie Regan 3, Audrey Martin 7, Julie Weber 2

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane 6 4 14 6--30

Andale 14 11 14 11--50

Mulvane -- Sami Booth 6, Jackie Burkhart 7, Kim Mangus 2, Melissa Doerfer 2, Cindy Hartley 1, Kris Lazar 4, Michelle Dinkel 8. FG 13 (0), FT 4-13, F 13

Andale -- Andrea Sigg 11, Tracy Patry 3, Annie Steven 6, Shelly Liles 6, Heidi Hein 4, Kristin Faber 4, Sharla Hohensel 8, Julie Weber 8. FG 19 (1), FT 11-17, F 17