

Showdown Tonight

Cat Girls March

Thru 1st Round

Mulvane's girls haven't beaten Garden Plain many times but Coach Kelly Dennis' squad made it one in a row Tuesday night, Jan. 27, in the opening round of the Wildcat Girls Classic at the MHS gym.

The Wildcats came out hitting their shots and then played strong defense down the stretch to spank the Owls, 47-39. In the second game Tuesday night, Clearwater pounded Campus, 72-42, setting up a re-match with the Cats in a semifinal today (Jan. 29) in the feature game at 8:45 p.m. Clearwater is undefeated.

"We came out and played well," agreed Dennis after winning her first game against Garden Plain. "We shot the ball well in the opening quarter and got a nice lead, so I was pleased. We went into the game wanting to keep our turnovers down and we did for the second game in a row. We had only 19 turnovers against Garden Plain. Last Friday, we had only 12 against Augusta."

Shelley Richards, a junior, continued her hot shooting for the Wildcats. She scored 12 points. Sophomore Kassie Hargrove finished with 10 points but it was good balance that boosted the Cats' cause. Guards Lindsay Kendrick and Jackie McColpin had nine and six points, respectively, and Kristin Buchanan chipped in with six points.

The Wildcats took a step in reverse in their final tune-up for the tournament Friday night, Jan. 23, at Augusta. Mulvane dominated physically but the Orioles won the non-league game, 52-49.

"It's a pretty big setback for us, I feel," said Dennis, whose team had just moved to one game away from .500. "It's a game I thought we should win but we didn't. There were a ton of things I thought we did well. Our kids hustled, our kids worked hard, but they still don't recognize the little things it takes to win ball games, things like knowing when to not shoot the ball, when to try and take what the other team is giving you. They were giving it the inside shot but time and time again, we kept shooting from the outside. Even after a time out or two to talk about it, we'd go out and shoot it from the outside. We have some pretty smart girls, but sometimes they don't act very smart."

So instead of Mulvane squaring up its record, the girls slipped to 4-6 while the Orioles won just their second game this season.

"We dominated the rebounding, 33-10; we had three times more steals than they did," said Dennis. "We had only two turnovers more than they did and we physically dominated the game, but we didn't have anyone who could think. We didn't have any one person thinking in sync. There were other times, we'd come down the floor and have some girls playing one offense and others playing another offense."

Augusta did plenty to speed the Cats along, too. The Orioles were 14 of 24 from the floor and 3-for-4 from the three-point line. "They were hot from the field," agreed Dennis, "but what ultimately really killed us was what they did at the free throw line. They made a lot of free throws and that killed us."

Wildcat Girls Classic Results

FIRST ROUND

Garden Plain	4	17	6	12-39
Mulvane	14	12	8	13-47
Garden Plain--Renee Lilly 4, Kayla Pauly 4, Jenni Leis 7, Cheryl Paula 7, Amy Cook 11, Janine Werner 4. FG 13 (1), FT 12-29, F 21.				
Mulvane--Kassie Hargrove 10, Melissa Buchanan 2, Shelley Richards 1-2, Kristin Buchanan 6, Heather Williams 2, Lindsay Kendrick 9, Jackie McColpin 6. FG 16 (3), FT 12-21, F 24				

Clearwater 72, Campus 42				
Andale 44, Wellington 37				
Andover 44, Arkansas City 32				

Wildcat Girls Classic Pairings

TODAY (JAN. 29)

Game 5 -- Wellington vs. Arkansas City, 3:30 p.m.	
Game 6 -- Campus vs. Garden Plain, 5:15	
Game 7 -- Andale vs. Andover, 7	
Game 8 -- Clearwater vs. Mulvane, 8:45	
SATURDAY, JAN. 31	
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	

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	10	17	14	8	49
Augusta	9	15	14	14	52
Mulvane--Lindsay Kendrick 12, Kristin Buchanan 12, Michelle Fowler 2, Kassie Hargrove 4, Shelley Richards 11, Melissa Buchanan 8. FG 19 (3), FT 2-8, F 21					
Augusta--Sandy Smithson 3, Rachel Critchfield 9, Laura Randle 11, Misty Smithson 8, Julie Stowell 7, Abby Mai 7, Stephanie Wallace 7. FG 14 (3), FT 15-23, F 14.					

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	7	1	10	14	7	39
Augusta	12	2	8	10	3	35
Mulvane--Andrea Hufford 2, Jana Smith 5, Shiriah Craft 1, Kristal LaPlant 8, Carisa Ward 2, Piper Roy 13, Ann Leonard 3, Aubrey Benjamin 1, Natalie Turner 4. FG 13 (0), FT 13-29, F 20.						
Augusta--Karen Schneider 7, Sandy Smithson 8, Lynna Williamson 2, Hillary Midkiff 2, Carrie Berton 4, Kara Kappelmann 11. FG 12 (2), FT 9-20, F 20.						

Augusta hit 15 of 23 while the Wildcats shot only eight times, making two.

Dennis returned to the "smart basketball theme." There were two times in the last two minutes of the game when we had a one-point lead and the ball," said the Wildcat girls coach. "We came down and shot the ball instead of working it and holding onto it. Why would you shoot the ball in those circumstances?"

Dennis was pleased with several aspects of the game, though. "We rebounded the ball extremely well and Melissa Buchanan had nine boards," she pointed out. "Lindsay had one of her better shooting games and hit two three-pointers. Shelley played well but she was in foul trouble. Heather Williams and Michelle Fowler both came off the bench in the first half and did a nice job, and Kirstin did a good job. But we're not figuring out what other teams are doing to us and reacting to it."

The MHS junior varsity girls played a great game for the second game in a row, topping the Oriole JVs, 39-35, in one overtime. Mulvane staged a nice rally in the last quarter, out-scoring Augusta, 14-10, to complete a second half comeback to tie.

Piper Roy poked in 13 points. Kristal LaPlant had eight points, Jana Smith scored five and Natalie Turner had four.