

Wildcat Girls Whip Andover In Classic, Brace For 'Big Game' In Tonight's Round

Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Bill Stinson is all smiles on the outside but there still are those nagging doubts an up-and-coming team have to answer about how things will stack up against the outstanding teams.

Stinson's Wildcats ran their record to 7-3 Monday night, Jan. 27, by slapping down Andover, 49-39, in the first round of the Mulvane Lady Wildcat Basketball Classic at the Mulvane High School gym.

The other first-round results found Bishop Carroll racking Wellington, 59-49, in the seven-team tournament's first game and Clearwater polished off the first round by clipping Augusta, 61-59, in the only upset of the night. Augusta had been seeded No. 4.

"In the first half, our offense went like clockwork," said Stinson. "It was really looking good, but in the second half, it got away from us a bit. We took a shot here and a shot there instead of taking shots within our offense. It's tough, though, to keep that intensity level up the whole game."

Stinson's bunch rolled out to a 14-8 lead after one quarter and enlarged the advantage to 15 points by intermission, 29-14. In the second half, the Trojans, after their second victory of the season, out-scored Mulvane, although Mulvane never let the gap close to under eight points.

"When it got close, I was glad to see the girls pull away each time because I didn't want to show our match-up (zone) defense," stressed Stinson, whose outfit now has won three games in a row. In a Chisholm Trail League game Friday night Jan. 24, at Goddard, the Cats struggled before topping the Lion

Girls Varsity

Goddard 4 7 6 4-21
Mulvane 6 6 3 10-28

Goddard--Stacie Wiechman 6, Sandy Payne 2, Stacy Schmidt 7, Melody Haller 4, Linda Wiebe 2. FG 7-40, FT 7-10, F 22.

Mulvane--Lori Cox 6, Tiane Dossey 3, Shella Mahlandt 2, Tammy Haas 1, Rhonda Davis 6, Kathy Saxton 6, Kim Millerskow 4. FG 7-31, FT 14-23, F 13.

MULVANE LADY WILDCAT CLASSIC PAIRINGS TONIGHT (JAN. 30)

Game 5 -- Andover vs. Wellington, 4:15 p.m.

Game 6 -- Mulvane vs. Bishop Carroll, 6

Game 7 -- Rose Hill vs. Clearwater, 7:45

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Game 8 (Consolation Championship)--Augusta vs. winner of game 5, 3:45 p.m.

Game 7 (Third Place)--Losers of games 6 and 7, 5:30

Game 8 (Championship)--Winners of games 6 and 7, 8

LADY WILDCAT CLASSIC FIRST ROUND

Andover 8 6 11 12--39
Mulvane 14 15 10 10--49

Andover--Danna May 2, Traci Boone 4, Melissa Ewing 4, Tiff Trekell 2, Tracey Lawrence 4, Joyce Borg 13, Gretchen Zuercher 2, Carrie Consolver 8. FG 17-37, FT 5-7, F 14

Mulvane--Lori Cox 13, Tiane Dossey 9, Shella Mahlandt 3, Rhonda Davis 13, Kathy Saxton 11. FG 19-56, FT 11-17, F 10.

Bishop Carroll 59, Wellington 49
Clearwater 61, Augusta 59

girls, 28-21, to run their league record to 3-1.

The MHS boss was happy to see a continuing balance on offense, with four of Mulvane's five starters hitting near double figures. Senior Lori Cox and Rhonda Davis, a junior guard, led the Wildcats with 13 points each and forward Kathy Saxton added 11 points. Guard Tiane Dossey scored nine points.

"I would much rather see that kind of balance than a 20-point scorer," said Stinson. "It shows you're playing good team basketball and getting the ball around on offense."

Stinson wasn't satisfied, though, with the 10-point victory. "We've won some games but we still do some of those little things that separates you from being a real good team," said the Cat coach. "We've been competitive and I feel good about that but I guess as a coach, I'm always looking to get better. The girls see that and understand. You always see areas where you can improve and I'm still concerned about those little things.

"Thursday (Jan. 30) is the big game," continued Stinson. "We have to prove ourselves against a good basketball team and Thursday will be that test. We

haven't beaten any really good teams. I think we're pretty good but we haven't beaten anybody of record. Thursday night, we'll get our chance."

That's when the Wildcats will march into a semifinal battle (today) against Bishop Carroll, the No. 3 seeded team and a team that has been traditionally good. That game is scheduled for 6 p.m. Andover and Wellington will play at 4:15 in the first game of the semifinal round. The final game of the night will be at 7:45 when Rose Hill's No. 1 seeded Rockets will meet Clearwater.

At Goddard, Stinson's gals had to scratch and bite to pick up the victory and remain in the CTL title chase with Buhler and Valley Center. It was a difficult game emotionally because of

the deaths of two Mulvane High School seniors earlier in the week.

"It was a really tough week for the girls and it was difficult to get into the mood to play," said Stinson. "We played good defense but we couldn't put the ball in the hole. I'm just happy to get the win and get on to the next week."

The Wildcats hit only 23% (seven of 31) from the field at Goddard, well under their average for the season.

Davis and Saxton tied Cox for high point honors for the MHS girls, each with six points. Dossey finished with three and reserve Kim Millerskow scored four points in the first quarter. Neither Cox nor Dossey started after being late for the bus.