

Girls Toppled

In OT Opener

There was no three-point magic at the end to keep the Mulvane High School girls alive.

Three-point shots at the buzzer in regulation and the first overtime prolonged the Wildcat opening round game in the 23rd Wildcat Girls Classic against Garden Plain Tuesday, Jan. 28, but it disappeared in the 2nd overtime as the Owls held on for a 53-48 triumph.

In other first-round games, Andover demoralized Arkansas City, 45-16, and Campus punched out Wellington, 54-43. Monday night, Jan. 27, and Clearwater pulled away from Andover, 53-38.

Mulvane trailed the entire contest but a three-pointer by Melissa Doerfer from the head of the key as the horn sounded tied the game at 37-37 and sent the game into overtime. The Cats took their only lead of the whole game when Shayna Duncan hit one in the paint but it took another three-point thunderbolt by Abby Sorensen from the wing to tie the game at 44-44 with just seconds left to send the game into overtime No. 2.

The Owls didn't let this one slide, though, as they took advantage of several turnovers to pulled away at the end.

The loss dropped the Wildcats into the loser's bracket and they will meet Andover at 6 p.m. today (Jan. 30) in the auxiliary gym.

23rd Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 9 6 11 11 (7) (4)-48
 Garden Plain 6 12 8 11 (7) (9)-53
 Mulvane--Shayna Duncan 24, Whitney Becker 4, Abby Sorensen 7, Stephanie Tatum 3, Melissa Doerfer 9
 FG 22 (2), FT 2-9, F 25.

Garden Plain--Kristen Pauly 14, Janessa Gerber 2, Keesha Steckline 15, Anna Perry 4, Audra Cox 8, Jana Perry 4, Mandy Leis 5, Jennifer Meyer 1
 FG 21 (1), FT 10-29, F 15.

Clearwater 53, Andover 38
 Andale 45, Arkansas City 16
 Campus 54, Wellington 43

23rd Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic Pairings

TODAY (JAN. 30)

Game 5 - Arkansas City vs Wellington 4 p.m.

*Game 6 - Andover vs Mulvane, 6

Game 7 - Clearwater vs Garden Plain 6

Game 8 - Andale vs Campus, 7:45

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

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

Game 10 (Fifth Place)- winners of games 5 and 6 4:45

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

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

*-game played in auxiliary gym

"We definitely had some untimely turnovers, without a doubt," said MHS coach Jayson Miller. "But for the first time this year, I felt like we played hard for a second game in a row and that is encouraging. We lost them both, but I was happy that we played hard the whole way, even when we were trailing.

"Yes, we made some mistakes but when you're playing hard, you're going to make some mistakes. Those can be corrected. It's when we start making mistakes and start hanging our heads, that's when I'm not happy because I know the girls can play better. That's also when bad things happen."

The Wildcats had a ton of opportunities in the 4th quarter and two overtimes because the Owls had a hard time hitting their free throws. GP went 10 of 29 for the game and down the stretch, the Owls could manage only 3 of 15 at the stripe.

Mulvane's best chance for victory escaped in the 1st overtime when the Cats had the ball after another Owl free throw miss. The score was tied and there were less than 10 seconds left. However, Mulvane committed a turnover as Miller was trying to get a time out to set up a play.

"Rebounding is still a factor," complained Miller. "And we started taking quick shots instead of working the ball more. We're trying to get the girls to work the ball inside. Nobody's setting the world on fire from the perimeter for us, although those two three-pointers were pretty nice to see."

Junior center Shayna Duncan had a monster night, scoring 24 points to keep the Cats moving in the right direction. Doerfer finished with nine points, Sorensen scored seven, Whitney Becker had four and Stephanie Tatum finished with three.

The Wildcat girls played a home game against Rose Hill Friday night, Jan. 24, and fell to 2-0 against the Rockets this season. RH won by a 64-50 count in a CTL game.

"We played a pretty good first half," noted Coach Miller. "We came out and ran our offense better than we have at anytime in the last four games and I felt like we were controlling the tempo of the game. But in the 3rd quarter, we had about 3-4 turnovers in a row early in the quarter and Rose Hill got hot at the same time and ran out to about a 10-point lead. They got that separation and we never could cut into it."

The Wildcats trailed by only two (25-23) at intermission but the Rockets out-scored Mulvane, 21-10, in the fateful 3rd period.

"They hit their free throws (20 out of 24)

down the stretch which kept us from closing in on them," said Miller. "They hurt us a lot in the 2nd half with dribble penetration. Anybody's going to shoot better shooting five-footers than they are 15 or 20-footers. That was the big problem we never solved."

Rose Hill ended up shooting over 50% from the field. "It's pretty tough to beat anybody when they shoot that good," said Miller. "We let them get inside on us. It was just a matter of not moving our feet. We have a tendency to play too tight on people and body up on them. That makes it easy for them to break away from us. We're working hard to get our defensive people off just a little. Hopefully, we'll do a better job of that in the second half of the season."

Miller is still waiting for, no, praying for more balance and more consistency. Friday night against the Rockets, only four players scored. Junior Shayna Duncan had another huge game against RH. She hit 20 on the Rockets in that first game in December and came back with a 21-point effort Friday night. Melissa Doerfer scored seven points, Abby Sorensen scored nine points and Kayla Lannebur had five.

"We have some who could step up there (offensively) but I'm still waiting," said Miller. "'Dorf' had a cold-shooting game but kept fighting it and got some points in the 2nd half. Steph (Tatum) is giving us more. I'm still waiting for that game when they are all on at the same time."



Girls Varsity

Rose Hill 12 13 21 18-64
 Mulvane 12 11 10 17-50

Rose Hill -Jenny Barnes 22, Lucy Barnes 7, Brittany Scogin 2, Erica Rothweiler 11, Katie Hoyt 14, Tristan Smades 8
 FG 21 (2), FT 20-24, F 11

Mulvane--Melissa Doerfer 7, Kayla Lannebur 5, Abby Sorensen 9, Shayna Duncan 21, Laura Buchanan 2, Stephanie Tatum 4, Whitney Becker 2
 FG 15 (0), FT 5 7, F 19

Junior Varsity Girls

Rose Hill 14 3 4 14-35
 Mulvane 3 10 7 2-22

Rose Hill -Christine Karslake 6, Stephanie Heineman 4, Leslie Parrish 11, Aubree Nighswonger 4, Stephanie Rayner 4, Kristen Ozburn 4, Della Smith 2
 FG 14 (0), FT 7-14, F 15

Mulvane--Whitney Becker 4, Tara Roberts 8, Shayna Duncan 2, Abby Sorensen 1, Stephanie Tatum 2, Megan Turner 2, Laura Buchanan 2, Josey Gosch 1
 FG 7 (0), FT 8-12, F 20