

Girls Still Slumping

In its 21 years, the Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic trophy has been taken out of town 20 times, but Coach Jayson Miller thought this year might be one time the trophy stays close to home.

Wait 'til next year.

The slumping MHS Wildcat girls weren't up to the task and had to settle for 4th place in their own mid-season girls tournament. Arkansas City battered the Cats, 56-40, in the game for third place Saturday evening, Jan. 27, at the Mulvane High gym.

Campus ended Andover's two-year reign as tourney titlists when the Colts blasted Garden Plain, 68-37, for the championship. Andale took 5th place by belting Wellington, 52-29, and Andover finished 7th by rocking Clearwater, 65-51, in overtime.

The Wildcats got knocked into the third place game Thursday night, Jan. 25, when Garden Plain held the Cats to only seven points in the entire second half of a 36-21 victory. Campus throttled Ark City, 49-34, in the other championship semifinal.

"We're just kind of struggling right now," complained Miller, whose team has shown promise this season as well as an erratic play. "We're still trying to find ourselves. The girls are playing hard, but they're getting away from the things that are going to make them successful. We just have to go to work and play better defense."

Only the 1991 Classic trophy sits in the Wildcat display case and that's not changing after the Cats slipped on offense. The three game scoring figures in the tournament were the team's three lowest scores of the campaign. After jumping out to a 5-1 record, the Cats have dropped five of their last six games.

The Bulldogs were successful pressuring the Wildcats and creating turnovers. "We didn't adjust to their press and made a bunch of silly turnovers early," agreed Miller. "We finally started playing better in the second half and played them straight up, but it was too late then. You need to do more when you're down."

While his defense wasn't consistent, it was the Cat offense that seemed to be a beat or two off kilter. That point was driven home against Garden Plain. The Owls held Mulvane to only 21 points, the fewest scored by Miller's Cats during his three-year stint here.

"We didn't do anything on offense the whole tournament," said Miller. "It's not just one person. It's the whole team. Everybody has to step up and change things. We did play better offensively against Ark City but not enough better."

Junior Kris Lazar finished with 15 points against the Bulldogs. Center LaShelle Parker scored 10 points but the offense tailed off after that. Sami Booth finished with six points and Melissa Doerfer scored five.

"Our defense against Garden Plain was pretty poor but we weren't scoring either," said Miller. "I think that created some frustration in our game. We seemed to be waiting for something to happen instead of going out and making something happen."

Oddly enough, Booth, one of the key ingredients in the Mulvane offense was held

21st Mulvane Wildcat

Girls Classic

THIRD PLACE

Arkansas City	16	18	14	8-56
Mulvane	9	8	9	14-40

Arkansas City—Brenda Voegele 10, A.J. McClaffin 5, Amy Adamson 9, Ashley Rogers 17, Barbara Voegele 8, Dru Warren 4, Kryssy Jennings 1, Monique Torrez 2. FG 23 (1), FT 9-12.

Mulvane—LaShelle Parker 10, Kris Lazar 15, Sami Booth 6, Melissa Doerfer 5, Jackie Burkhart 2, Michelle Dinkel 2. FG 16 (1), FT 7-9.

FIRST PLACE

Campus 68, Garden Plain 37

FIFTH PLACE

Andale 52, Wellington 29

SEVENTH PLACE

Andover 65, Clearwater 51 (OT)

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane	7	7	4	3-21
Garden Plain	8	8	10	10-36

Mulvane—Kris Lazar 2, Andrea Valerio 2, LaShelle Parker 8, Melissa Doerfer 4, Jackie Burkhart 2, Michelle Dinkel 2. FG 8 (0), FT 5-11, F 18.

Garden Plain—Rachael Helten 4, Danielle Lafferty 10, Andrea Zoglman 4, Kayla Pauly 7, Rachel Kerschen 3, Jacque Zoglman 2, Rachel Reida 6. FG 14 (0), FT 8-16, F 12.

Campus 49, Arkansas City 34
Wellington 50, Clearwater 32
Andale 49, Andover 24

Varsity Girls

Maize	15	6	10	17-48
Mulvane	6	9	14	11-40

Maize—Michelle Rink 6, Liz Kramer 6, Ashley McClellan 2, Betsy Marling 3, Megan Marek 10, Micki Soft 15, Val Jones 4, Abby Betzen 2. FG 16 (2), FT 14.

Mulvane—Andrea Valerio 1, Jackie Burkhart 3, Melissa Doerfer 9, Nicole Hackley 1, LaShelle Parker 14, Kris Lazar 10, Sami Booth 2. FG 14 (1), FT 11.

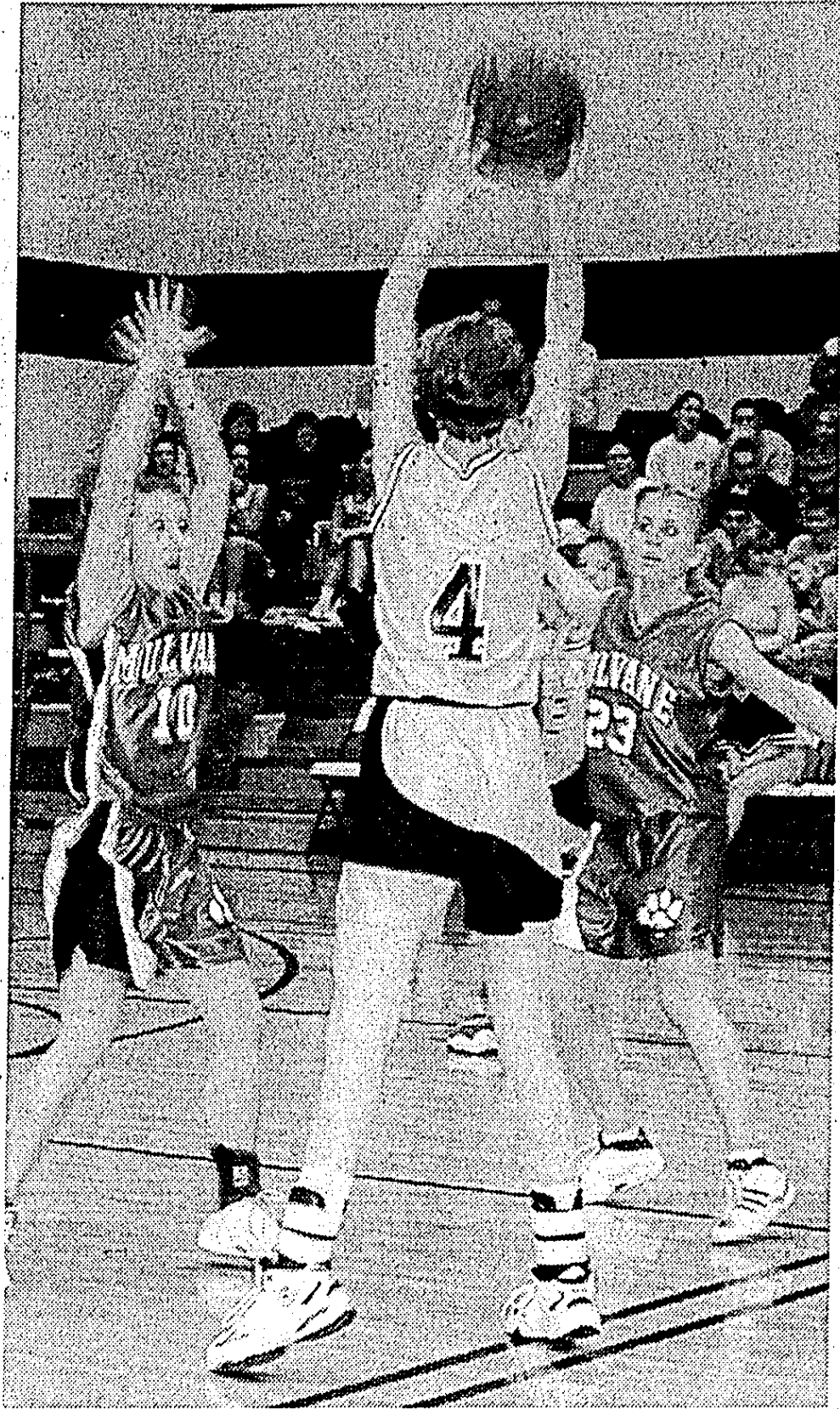
scoreless in the GP game, and nobody was in double figures. Parker scored a team-high eight points and Doerfer had four. Lazar, Andrea Valerio, Jackie Burkhart and Michelle Dinkel each had two points to round out the scoring.

The outlook took a turn for the better when Maize came to Mulvane Tuesday night, Jan. 30. The Cats played better ball but still had to settle for a 48-40 loss to the Eagles in a Chisholm Trail League game.

"It was a step in the right direction," said Miller after the home game. "I will say that first and foremost. It was definitely not where we want to be, but I felt like it was a step back in the direction we want to take. As far as energy, it was better. As far as playing together, it was better. And as far as rebounding and defense it was better, but it wasn't where we want to be. Earlier this year, we were pretty good in rebounding but it has deserted us. Our defense was better, but we still have a lot of cleaning up to do."

The Wildcats stumbled to 6-7 for the year with the 6th loss in their last seven outings. The Eagles blitzed them early, taking a 15-6 lead after one quarter but Mulvane came back in the next two quarters to take the lead. "I felt really good about things because we hung right in there with them even though we weren't playing very good," said Miller. "In the 3rd quarter, we got on a run and took the lead but we couldn't hold it."

Parker topped the scoring for the Cats, hitting 14 points. Kris Lazar scored 10 points, Doerfer scored nine and Jackie Burkhart had three.



Wildcat's Michelle Dinkel (10) and Jackie Burkhart (23) try to trap a Garden Plaine player

Parker Tabbed For Classic Team

Mulvane junior center LaShelle Parker was the lone Mulvane High School player named to the all-tournament team following the conclusion of the 21st annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic held at the Mulvane High gym.

The 6-foot, 1-inch Wildcat post was one of only two to earn a repeat spot on the 2001 all-tournament team. The other was Nicole Patry of Campus, a senior named to the elite unit for the third consecutive year. The 5-8 senior guided the Colts to the tournament title.

The other seniors on the all-tournament team included Jamie Berntsen of Clearwater, Cherity Clift of Wellington and 5-10 Jackie

Regan of Andale. Other juniors named to the squad included Ronnie Maglaughlin of Campus, Kayla Pauly of Garden Plain and Barbara Voegele of Arkansas City.

Two sophomores also were honored by selection. Garden Plain's 5-10 Danielle Lafferty and 6-0 Tracy Patry of Andale helped round out the top 10 players in the tournament. The team was selected by participating team and tournament officials.

Other awards went to Rusty Whittington of Campus, who guided the Colts to first place, snapping a two-year reign by Andover, who won the Coaches Award and to Nicole Patry of Campus, who was presented the C.V. Hartung Award. Wellington won the team Sportsmanship award.