

Miller All Smiles After Classic; Offense Gain Needed Confidence

It's a good week when you can make the Coach smile.

Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller was all smiles the last two days of the 23rd annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic held at the MHS gym.

The Cats didn't win the tournament championship but they did the next best thing after losing in the first round to Garden Plain in double overtime. Mulvane blasted a one-win Andover team, 49-31, in the auxiliary gym Thursday, Jan. 30, then swarmed all over Arkansas City, 37-20, to take fifth place on Saturday.

Once-beaten Andale sailed to the Classic championship for the second straight year, romping past Clearwater, 67-42, for the top trophy Saturday night, Feb. 1.

The Wildcats could-a been there. "It was a good week," reported Miller. "I really have felt these last four games combined have solidified this team. We've started to

play a little better. Offensively, we've been gaining confidence every game and I think the girls have all finally gotten on the same page. Anytime you can get some confidence going and get positive steps going, you're going in the right direction. Now the key is to continue that march into the second half of the season."

Miller said the consolation title game wasn't his Wildcats' best performance ever but felt the Cats showed some maturity. "We hit the free throws down the stretch when we needed them to win the ball game, especially in the second half," said Miller. "Whitney Becker hit 3 of 4 and Shayna hit a couple of big ones. Those are good signs having people step up at the right time to win ball games."

"Clearly, when we start playing together more, we start believing in each other. We have been working our man offense to get to that point since the first of the year and I think the girls are understanding things better, they are moving better and that's something I want to see continue."

The MHS girls got off to a slow start, trailing much of the 1st quarter but kicked

things into gear in the 2nd quarter by out-scoring the Bulldogs, 10-1, to establish a seven-point halftime lead. Mulvane finished off business in the last quarter by out-scoring AC, 16-3.

"It's kind of tough to get all fired up when you play a Saturday afternoon game because it's not your usual game time and there weren't many people there at the start of the game," said Miller. "But I felt like the girls were working hard but didn't have the intensity that we have had in recent games. We got it going in the 2nd quarter but then came out like we were asleep again in the 3rd quarter."

The Mulvane girls played a strong 4th quarter and pulled away. "Neither team shot well in the 4th quarter but we did force some turnovers and we also kept them off the offensive boards," emphasized Miller. "They got one shot and we got the rebound. That's only the second time this year that we have won the battle of the boards. We also beat Andover on the boards in the semifinals."

Junior Shayna Duncan led the way on offense for Mulvane, scoring 10 points. Becker, starting her fourth game, finished with nine points and guards Melissa Doerfer

and Abby Sorensen scored eight and five points, respectively.

In Thursday's semifinal, Miller feels the Cats played the best five-minute stretch of the year. "We started playing assertive ball and for about five or six minutes, we attacked them," said Miller. "We put pressure on them and our full court press forced them to do a lot of things they didn't want to do. I'm sure it was a fun game for the girls because they got to do to Andover what other teams have been doing to them this year."

The Wildcats ended up forcing 30 turnovers out of the Trojans. "That gave the girls a lot of confidence in our full court package," added Miller, whose girls out-scored the Trojans, 30-16, in the middle two quarters to take control of the game.

Doerfer had 20 points, her biggest output since early in the season. Duncan scored 10 in the paint, Becker hit for six points, Stephanie Tatum had five and freshman Tara Roberts scored four.

The Cat girls will host Augusta in a league game Friday night, Feb. 7, before turning their attention to a Rose Hill rematch at Rose Hill Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Doerfer Into Tournament Spotlight

Mulvane senior guard Melissa Doerfer played her way into the spotlight and onto her first all-tournament team Saturday, Feb. 1, when she was one of an odd combination of girls named to the 23rd Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic All-Tournament team.

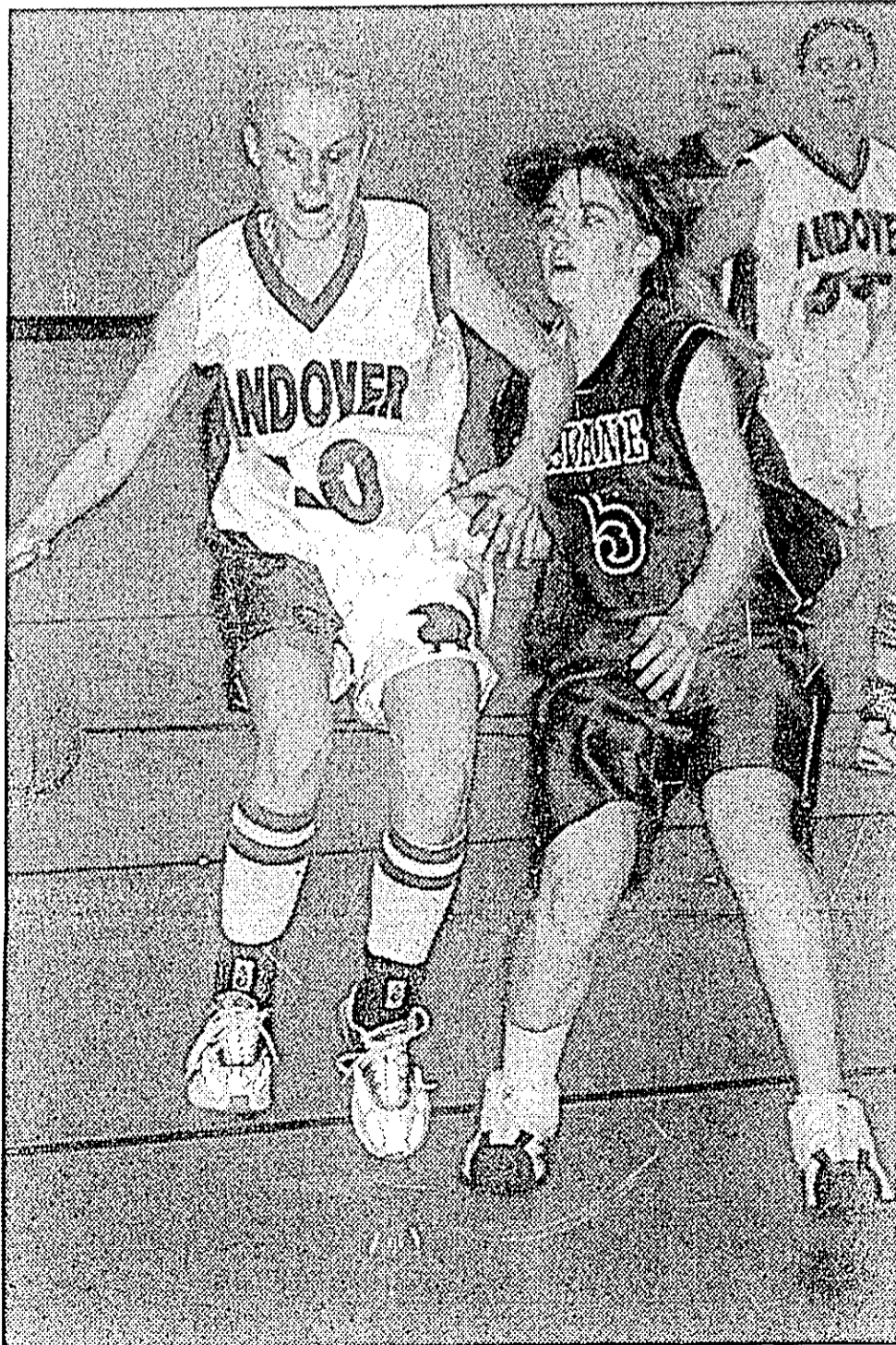
The team is selected by participating coaches and tournament officials contained four seniors, three juniors and three sophomores, had two repeaters and had a Patry on it for the fifth consecutive year.

Tournament champion Andale, Clearwater and Campus dominated the top 10 team with two players each. Doerfer was joined on the team by seniors Tracy Patry of Andale, Tiffany Adams of Campus and Kryssy Jennings of Arkansas City. Sophomores Lindsey Davis of Wellington, Amanda Reyes of Campus and Kristi Love of Clearwater.

Juniors were Keesha Steckline of Garden Plain, Ali Steven of Andale and Adrienna Thompson of Clearwater.

Patry was selected all-tourney for the third consecutive year and Reyes was selected for the second year in her sophomore year. The Patry name has been on the all-tourney team since Nicole Patry of Campus was a tournament selection in 1999 and again in 2000. In 2001, Nicole made it again and so did a sophomore named Tracy Patry of Andale.

Several other awards were presented at the conclusion of the tournament. Andale coach Mark Kerschen won the Coaches Award, Clearwater won the Sportsmanship Award and the C.V. Hartung Award to the girl demonstrating the best sportsmanship, hard work, hustle, team work and loyalty went to the Andale senior Patry.



Good defense by Melissa Doerfer (5) shuts off an Andover driver

23rd Annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic

FIFTH PLACE

Mulvane 5 10 6 16 37
Arkansas City 7 1 9 3 20
Mulvane - Shayna Duncan 10, Whitney Becker 9, Stephanie Tatum 2, Melissa Doerfer 8, Abby Sorensen 5, Kayla Oblinger 2, Kayla Lannebur 1. FG 12 (0), FT 13-19, F 14.

Arkansas City - Audra Tope 2, Jancye Sturd 2, Laura Hewitt 2, Allison Belindo 2, Kryssy Jennings 7, Brylee Sturd 1, Jessica Wood 1, Andrea Stover 3. FG 7 (1), FT 5-13, F 18.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Andale 67, Clearwater 42

THIRD PLACE

Garden Plain 57, Campus 42

SEVENTH PLACE

Wellington 53, Andover 35

SEMIFINALS

Andover 7 8 8 8 31
Mulvane 12 15 15 7 49
Andover - Sarah Smith 2, Shelby Pennington 2, Kim Wadsworth 7, Sarah Rabel 2, Christina Holcomb 3, Ashley Rigby 15. FG 7 (0), FT 8-11, F 20.

Mulvane - Melissa Doerfer 20, Stephanie Tatum 5, Kayla Lannebur 2, Whitney Becker 6, Shayna Duncan 10, Laura Buchanan 2, Tara Roberts 4. FG 19 (4), FT 10-20, F 16.

Arkansas City 50, Wellington 30

Clearwater 59, Garden Plain 38

Andale 45, Campus 41

Wildcat Classic All-Tournament Team

Player, School	Ht.	Class
Melissa Doerfer, Mulvane	5-4	Sr.
Keesha Steckline, Garden Plain	5-8	Jr.
**Tracy Patry, Andale	6-0	Sr.
Ali Steven, Andale	5-8	Jr.
Lindsey Davis, Wellington	5-8	Soph.
*Amanda Reyes, Campus	5-7	Soph.
Tiffany Adams, Campus	5-6	Sr.
Adrienne Thompson, Clearwater	5-7	Jr.
Kristi Love, Clearwater	5-5	Soph.
Kryssy Jennings, Ark. City	5-3	Sr.

Coaches Award: Mark Kerschen, Andale
Sportsmanship Award: Clearwater

C.V. Hartung Award: Tracy Patry, Andale

*each star represents previous all-tourney selection