

Girls Run Out of Gas As Rockets Pull Away

A hot streak late in the game ran out of gas in the final two minutes as the Mulvane High School girls took another tumble Tuesday night, Feb. 7, in a Chisholm Trail League game at home.

Rose Hill survived the run, scoring the final seven points of the game on the way to a 51-34 CTL victory Tuesday. The loss dropped the Wildcat girls' record to 1-15 overall and kept Coach Ron McMahon's gals winless (0-8) in the conference. RH improved its record to 7-8 and 3-4.

For the first three quarters, it looked like another walk in the park for Rose Hill, which led by as many as 20 points, but the Cats came back to make a game of it, narrowing the gap to 10, 44-34, with less than three minutes to play.

"I was happy with the last quarter, the way we got after them," said McMahon. "We went into our full-court man press, which is what we started the game with. Everybody gave it their all and got us to within 10 but we just ran out of gas. We couldn't maintain the pressure for another three minutes and they pulled away."

The Wildcats actually started the game in good shape, using that pressure defense effectively. They trailed by only two, 10-8, after one period, but the Rockets out-scored Mulvane, 28-11, in the middle two quarters. The lack of depth hurt because once the players tired, RH started pulling away.

"Another positive thing about the game is that for the second straight game, I didn't feel like the trap defense hurt us like it has in

Varsity Girls

Rose Hill	10	17	11	13—51
Mulvane	8	4	7	15—34

Rose Hill—Stephanie Kendal 11, Cassidy Richards 4, Lisa Brockmeier 1, Erica Schoenherr 8, Heather Savoy 1, Tammy Zuhars 18, Sarah Anthis 8. FG 23 (1), FT 4-12, F 17.

Mulvane—Courtney Renfro 9, Janelle Wenke 5, Heidi Parker 2, Danielle Hughes 4, Crissy Carpenter 6, Lee Cates 2, Carrie Burkhardt 6. FG 15 (0), FT 4-9, F 14.

Junior Varsity Girls

Rose Hill	2	4	6	4—16
Mulvane	4	2	0	4—10

Rose Hill—Denise Webster 4, Michelle Swenson 6, Brandi Erdman 2, Caroline Karlake 2, Wendi Howard 2. FG 8 (0), FT 0-4, F 5.

Mulvane—Aimee Goens 4, Crissy Carpenter 2, Lee Cates 2, Anna Wenke 2. FG 5 (0), FT 0-2, F 10.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	4	12	8	4—28
Kingman	25	15	21	22—72

Mulvane—Danielle Hughes 8, Courtney Renfro 4, Valerie Larson 2, Janelle Wenke 6, Carrie Burkhardt 4, Lee Cates 2, Crissy Carpenter 2. FG 13 (0), FT 2-3, F 17.

Kingman—Sarah Hunt 15, Candy Mitchell 8, Kristen Goetz 17, Kristi McDaniel 3, Martha Tatro 4, Brandy Sawyer 8, Megan Ellithorpe 4, Sam Strothman 3, Helen Lunsford 2, Lee Foulk 2, Heather Wohler 2, Megan Carrithers 4. FG 30 (1), FT 11-15, F 13.

Mulvane	6	6	6	6—24
Derby	12	6	17	14—49

Mulvane—Janelle Wenke 4, Courtney Renfro 6, NiChelle Bruce 5, Carrie Burkhardt 2, Lee Cates 4, Heidi Parker 1, Danielle Hughes 2. FG 10 (0), FT 4-13, F 14.

Derby—Michelle Watton 9, Erika Smith 7, Darcie Kelley 11, Jennifer Giacomini 1, Stacy Engel 9, Lisa Rhodes 6, Pam Michels 6. FG 19 (3), FT 8-13, F 20.

earlier games," added McMahon. "We handled it pretty well. And our press hurt them."

One area of the game which continued to plague the Wildcats is the rebounding, especially at the offensive end. "The offensive boards, we're just not getting them," said McMahon. "That really hurt us again. They got 15 offensive boards and we only got seven. We're just not doing the job there."

The Rockets hit 40%—but shot 21 more times than the Cats. Mulvane had one of its best shooting games, hitting 42% (15 of 36) but had eight fewer field goals.

The No. 1 scorer for Mulvane was junior Courtney Renfro. She had nine points. Guards Carrie Burkhardt and Crissy Carpenter finished with six points each. Inside players Janelle Wenke and Danielle Hughes had five and four points, respectively.

The MHS girls were out-manned in their previous two outings. Kingman's talented girls cagers waltzed past the Wildcats, 72-28, Friday night, Feb. 3, in a Chisholm Trail League game at Kingman, and Derby muscled past the Cats, 49-24, in a non-league road game Tuesday, Jan. 31.

"I was somewhat pleased with the performance at Kingman because we played better," said McMahon. "Unfortunately, the first quarter was difficult and Kingman is an outstanding basketball team."

The Eagles blew out to a 25-4 lead after the first eight minutes and never looked back. They have won 12 of their 15 games and lead the CTL Division II standings.

"They out-scored us by 21 points with the press and good shooting helping them," said McMahon. "We beat the press a few times, but they just shot the eyes out of the basket, hitting everything they threw up there. We put a new man offense in and got the ball into the post position better. I thought our guard so did a much better job breaking the press."

Another factor which worked against Mulvane's gals was rebounding. Kingman controlled the boards, especially on offense, getting 19 offensive boards to only seven for Mulvane. Sophomore Danielle Hughes led Mulvane with eight boards and junior Janelle Wenke had five.

"After the last couple of games, we tried to go with a different press breaker, bringing people into a different area and trying to get the ball back to the middle with Wenke, and that seemed to be more successful," stressed McMahon. "We also ran a new rotation to get more play into the middle inside and it worked well, but it was tough for us because they were really hurting us on the backboards."

Getting more rebounds also had another side-effect: it enabled the Eagles to shoot more times, which leads to more scoring.

"I saw a lot of good things for our kids,"

said McMahon. "We shot the ball well but so did they. And they shot the ball 39 times, hitting 38%. We hit 47% but we only made eight of 17 shots."

But the Cats never got closer after the poor start. The Eagles pulled away in the second half, out-scoring the Wildcats, 43-12.

"Still, Marlene (assistant coach Marlene Mangus) and I both felt we played better, we handled the press better and once they made some changes, we played them even," added McMahon. "We still have some people playing with injuries and that's slowing us down, too."

Renfro was the top scorer for the MHS girls. She scored six points. Wenke and Lee Cates had four points each and guard NiChelle Bruce scored five points.

"Their rough play took us right out of our game plan," said McMahon. "The first and third quarters were pretty rough ones for us. We just couldn't get any scoring going. I was really pretty proud of our girls because we really started getting physical, too. We actually turned it up a notch physically and played right along with them."

The next contest for the Wildcat girls will be Friday night, Feb. 10, when they travel to Andale for another CTL contest.

Hughes was the team's No. 1 scorer, hitting for eight points. Wenke finished with six, showing the new emphasis on the inside game. Courtney Renfro scored four points, as did guard Carrie Burkhardt.

At Derby, the Wildcats were in the game until the second half. The Panthers gathered steam in the second half by running out to a 31-12 edge. That was enough to break open a tight game at halftime which saw the host Panthers ahead, 18-12.