

After The Advice, MHS Girls Roll

There's nothing like some "fatherly advice" to get everything straightened out, so when the Mulvane Wildcat girls hit the deep freeze Tuesday night, Feb. 9, against Clearwater, Coach Jaysorn Williams decided it was time.

The Cats overcame a scoreless first five minutes of the second half, re-grouping in time to turn back Clearwater, 47-35, in a home game. The victory gave Miller's re-born Mulvane High girls a 9-6 record overall and kept them in the thick of the Chisholm Trail League Division II race with a 6-2 record.

Mulvane took off early. Playing well, the Cats stretched a 10-point plus lead out through the first half and looked like it was just about time to put it on cruise control. Wrong!

The Indians came back in the third quarter as Mulvane went more than five minutes without a bucket even though they probably had 10-to-12 great shots. They all missed and Clearwater climbed back to within six, 25-19. That's when Miller sent in another five players.

"We were getting some great shots there in the third quarter but we just hit a cold spot," said Miller. "That's why they call it basketball. I was upset because our defense got lazy. I pulled the girls on the court over and emphasized that we still needed to play good defense when the shots aren't falling. When I put them back in a couple minutes later, the shots started falling."

At least for senior Kristin Buchanan, who scored three buckets, all inside the paint, in the third quarter. Actually, that's all the Cats got in the quarter but those were big because it kept the wolf away from the door.

"We got all the good shots we needed," added Miller. "They were in a 2-3 zone and kept it tight inside so the girls were coming down and penetrating the middle. We didn't make them in the third quarter but they started falling again in the last period."

Another key factor was the free throw line. Mulvane hit 11 of 14 at the stripe and down the stretch, going 3-for-4 really helped. "It's definitely a bonus when you can shoot free throws in high school," admitted Miller. "I thought the girls played pretty good ball overall. They did a good job looking for the extra person. When we do that, we spread out the scoring, and that's what the girls have been doing with a lot of success lately."

Buchanan finished with a team-high 12 points. Lindsay Kendrick scored 10 points. Shelley Richards rang in with eight points and Kassie Hargrove and Shirrah Craft came off the bench to score six and five points, respectively.

The Cat girls wiped the slate clean on one embarrassing defeat in December when they rumbled past the Chaparral Roadrunners Friday night, Feb. 5, at Chaparral.

Chappy had smacked the Cats by 13 points in Mulvane's league opener under new coach Jaysorn Miller. And the loss was at home to boot.

"I think the girls went out there and were pretty upset with themselves about that first game," said Miller, whose Cats improved to 5-2 in the Chisholm Trail League. "In that first game, we had some people hurt, but that's no excuse. The girls came out and were focused Friday night. We had a tough time that first game, played really sloppy. We're a lot better team than we showed that night and I think the girls wanted to go over there and show that to Chaparral."

"They came out and attacked us but we responded. The girls wanted to prove to themselves that no matter what Chaparral threw at us, we were going to stay in our game plan and hang in there. It is especially important to keep your cool on the road and that's what our girls did."

On defense, Chappy threw everything and the kitchen sink at Mulvane in the first half but the Wildcats weathered the storm. "We played pretty good basketball, especially in the second half," said Miller. "The first half, Chaparral came out and threw a lot of different things at us and we did a good job keeping our wits about us. They were switching defenses constantly, going from full court to half court. It was good

Mulvane Sports

Varsity Girls

Clearwater	9	4	6	16-35
Mulvane	14	11	6	16-47
Clearwater--Mary Gannaway 14, Delta Lister 1, Brenda Setter 3, Ashley Holt 6, Ann Leger 7, Bonnie Charles 2, Brenda Davis 2 FG 12 (1), FT 10-19, F 16				
Mulvane--Lindsay Kendrick 10, Jackie McColpin 2, Kristin Buchanan 12, Arin Leonard 4, Shelley Richards 8, Shirrah Craft 5, Kassie Hargrove 6 FG 18 (0), FT 11-14, F 19				
Mulvane	6	13	18	17-53
Chaparral	12	9	10	12-39
Mulvane--Jackie McColpin 7, Shirrah Craft 2, Lindsay Kendrick 16, Kassie Hargrove 6, Shelley Richards 8, Kristin Buchanan 3, Arin Leonard 12 FG 18 (1), FT 17-23, F				
Chaparral--Emily Misak 15, Latta 4, Kasper 3, Kara Kastens 7, Inslee 6, Shirk 4 FG 17 (2), FT 3-13, F				

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	10	0	14	11-35
Chaparral	9	9	12	11-41
Mulvane--Jackie Burkhart 5, Carisa Ward 4, Aubrey Benjamin 4, Kris Lazar 4, LaShelle Parker 12, Danielle Vanderhoof 2, Cindy Hartley 4 FG 16 (1), FT 2-14, F 13				
Chaparral--Dunn 8, Brown 6, Inslee 8, Steven 4, Misak 3, Jelnek 8, Sneary 4 FG 16 (0), 9-17, F 20				

experience for our girls because they didn't get frustrated. We were actually able to get the lead by halftime. After that, we were able to re-group at halftime and made the adjustments we needed. After that, it was a matter of just putting them away."

Chappy was hot at the start; the Cats weren't. The hosts rolled out to a 12-6 lead in the first quarter but by intermission, Mulvane had taken a 19-17 lead. The Wildcats put the Roadrunners away in the second half, out-scoring Chappy by a 35-22 count.

And Mulvane was able to keep Chaparral away from the doorstep by making their free throws. Mulvane hit 17 of 23 from the stripe. "That was big," said Miller. "We got up by 10 points and couldn't close them out until the last few minutes of the game when we hit our free throws, which is what you have to do on the road. Lindsay got to the line and did a nice job, hitting nine of 13 free throws."

Senior Arin Leonard scored 12 points, which was a career high for her. Richards had eight points, point guard Jackie McColpin had seven and Hargrove finished with six.

"Arin had a big game for us," said Miller. "She was aggressive inside, was a big rebounder for us and turned some of those boards into points. She also got some help on the boards from Kris Lazar, Kassie Hargrove and Kristin Buchanan to help us control the boards."

In the junior varsity contest, the Wildcats never could recover from a scoreless second quarter and dropped a 41-35 game to Chappy's JVs. The second quarter drought turned a 10-9 lead into a 18-10 deficit. Freshman LaShelle Parker topped the scoring chart for the Wildcats with 12 points. Jackie Burkhart finished with five and Carisa Ward, Aubrey Benjamin, Lazar and Cindy Hartley each chipped in four points.