

MHS Girls Feel Power Of 'Three'

The power of the three-pointer. It can change momentum, it can fuel a comeback. Heck, some coaches even claim it can heal.

It healed Rose Hill Tuesday night, Feb. 10, against the Mulvane High School girls. The Cats were playing one of their better games of the year until three three-pointers in the third quarter by Rose Hill sent the Cats tumbling and gave the Rockets the momentum for a 50-41 verdict at Rose Hill.

"We played a great ball game," said Wildcat girls coach Kelly Dennis. "We shot the ball much better and we really dominated the rebounding but those three three-pointers really hurt in the third quarter. That was the difference in the ball game and brought Rose Hill back into the lead. Once they got there, we had to foul and they made their free throws."

Rose Hill wiped out a 21-20 Mulvane lead at intermission by out-scoring the Cats, 30-20 in the second half. That dropped Mulvane's gals to 5-11 overall and 2-6 in the CTL.

Lindsay Kendrick had a fine game, scoring a game-high 14 points. Shelley Richards had nine points, Melissa Buchanan had six and Kassie Hargrove finished with five. But it didn't keep highly-ranked Rose Hill from topping the Wildcats for the third time of this season.

At Kingman Friday night, Feb. 6, it was another one of those "slip away" games. The Wildcats are in it until they slip away in the final three or four minutes of the contest. Kingman got it rolling with a six-point turnaround late in the contest on the way to taking a 56-44 triumph at home.

Mulvane had edged the Eagles, 41-39, earlier this season.

"We played pretty well until the last three or four minutes, then, when it counts,

we don't ~~make~~ the plays," emphasized Coach Dennis, whose Cats tumbled to 5-10 overall and 2-5 in the CTL. "We had it within two points, 43-41, with about three minutes left but they came down, shot the ball and we fouled them. They missed the foul shot but got the rebound and scored and we fouled them. I think they scores six points in about 15 seconds to break our backs. Three offensive rebounds and free throws and that was it."

It was discouraging because victory was within Mulvane's grasp, much like it has been in just about every game this season. "We can play great, but if we don't shoot well, we don't win," said Dennis. "The girls are frustrated. I'm frustrated. Our fans are frustrated, but what do you do. You just go out and try to win the next one. We've been right in the middle of almost every game. We've been competitive in all of them except the one game against Rose Hill. That's when we shot 14% from the floor."

The Cats actually got things rolling their way quickly, running out to a 14-5 lead after one quarter, but the Eagles used the next three quarters to take over and then won it on the 15-second sprint.

"I know our girls are busting their tails and trying as hard as they can," added Dennis. "We actually shot about 30% (16 of 54) at Kingman, which was our second best shooting game of the year, but Kingman hit the really big shots in the second half when they needed them."

What's frustrating Dennis is that only one wheel is falling off down the stretch, but it's enough to keep the Wildcats on a skid. They've lost four in a row.

"We played good enough to win," added Dennis. "We ran our offense in the first half and things were going good. We were in the game until we started getting out of our offense. That kind of cooled us off. We also missed a couple free throws in the fourth quarter. The kids are playing hard but there just seems to be one part of the game that goes wrong, and usually it only takes one."

Guard Lindsay Kendrick scored 12 points for Mulvane to carry the offense. Nine of those came in the second half. Guard Michelle Fowler scored seven points. The inside game for the Wildcats came from Shelley Richards, a junior, and Melissa Buchanan, each with eight points. Sophomore Jackie McColpin finished with nine assists for Mulvane.

The Cat junior varsity saw a late comeback fall short as the Eagles held on for a 27-24 victory. The Cats made their charge in the last quarter when Kingman went cold at the stripe, hitting only 6 of 19.

Arin Leonard was top scorer for the Mulvane JVs, scoring seven points. Shiriah Craft scored four.

Homecoming's next for the Wildcats. The girls will be at home against Andale Friday night, Feb. 13.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	10	11	10	10-41
Rose Hill	17	3	14	16-50

Mulvane—Lindsay Kendrick 14, Shelley Richards 9, Jackie McColpin 3, Kassie Hargrove 5, Melissa Buchanan 6, Heather Williams 1, Kristin Buchanan 3. FG 16 (4), FT 5-11, F 17.

Rose Hill—Summer Pearson 11, Chelsea Stancoff 12, Katie Schofield 4, Brandy Erdman 8, Bonnie Addington 6, Jessica Tracy 5, Katie Woodrow 4. FG 18 (3), FT 11-21, F 13.

Mulvane	14	10	10	10-44
Kingman	5	15	19	17-56

Mulvane—Lindsay Kendrick 12, Michelle Fowler 7, Jackie McColpin 2, Kassie Hargrove 2, Melissa Buchanan 8, Shelley Richards 8, Heather Williams 2, Kristin Buchanan 2. FG 16 (2), FT 10-17, F 23.

Kingman—Cindy Hageman 9, Sherri Hageman 3, Sarah Knapic 9, Carrie Miller 11, Dana Parsons 3, Holly Messinger 3, Jennifer McGinnis 6, Nacona Dodge 2, Abby Young 10. FG 21 (1), FT 13-24, F 20.

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	2	5	4	13-24
Kingman	4	8	5	10-27

Mulvane—Aubrey Benjamin 2, Arin Leonard 7, Shiriah Craft 4, Kristal LaPlant 2, Natalie Turner 2, Andrea Hufford 2, Allison Kimble 1, Piper Roy 2, Carissa Ward 2. FG 9 (1), FT 5-9, F 29.

Kingman—Tracy Luntford 5, Amber Stucky 3, Amy Hook 6, Nacona Dodge 8, Lindsey Burket 4, Jayme Coon 1. FG 7 (0), FT 13-37, F 14.