

## Two Tight Games

# Gritty Girls

# Miss Chance

The Mulvane High School girls continued their gritty play against highly-ranked Clearwater but missed opportunities in the final minute of play allowed Clearwater to escape Mulvane with a 32-30 triumph Tuesday night, Feb. 17.

The Wildcats slipped to 5-13 overall while the Indians improved their record to 16-1, three of those 16 wins coming against Mulvane. Coach Kelly Dennis' Cats have been beaten by 10, six and two by the Indians this year.

"We had three opportunities in the last minute to tie it up and they just turned out to be missed opportunities," said Dennis. "We put them to the line and they missed some clutch free throws. Their two starting guards were 0-for-11 at the line so we tried to take advantage of that.

"I thought we did a good job, though, keeping things switched up on them," said Dennis. "I thought that helped keep them out of sync the whole game. It just too bad we couldn't get anything to fall in the last couple of minutes."

The Wildcats led the entire first three quarters of the game before the Indians took the lead with six minutes left. After that, few points were scored in the contest.

Senior Melissa Buchanan and junior Lindsay Kendrick led the way offensively with eight points each for the Cats. Michelle Fowler scored six points and both Shelley Richards and Kristin Buchanan had four points.

"Twelve percent."

Enough said.

Even the Globetrotters couldn't win a game shooting 12% from the field. That's what the Wildcat girls did Friday night, Feb. 13, when Andale came to Mulvane for Winter Homecoming. The Indians went on a second-half rampage and wiped out a 12-point Mulvane lead early in the third quarter of a 43-33 victory.

"We shot 12%, they shot 60%, that's the story," declared Dennis. "When you shoot the ball that poorly, and I'm talking about the whole team at one point or another, then things go bad. In the second half, they went bad."

Through the first 16 minutes of play, it appeared Dennis' Wildcats were going to get their first triumph over Andale in her three years as head coach. The Cats were playing beautifully, rumbling out to a 22-10 lead at intermission. But then something went wrong. Everybody went blind.

"We played such a great first half," stressed Dennis, "especially defensively. They didn't make any adjustments. We had a lot of open shots in the second half and just missed them. I don't know why. All we can do is keep shooting in practice and working on our shots and hope it pays off, but we're starting to run out of time."

Andale had its super-charger on from the onset of the third quarter and it didn't take the Indians long to take the lead after Mulvane went without scoring the first five minutes of the quarter.

"We just didn't come out in the third quarter," said Dennis. "We haven't had a good third quarter in our last five or six games, and it didn't help that they came out so hot. If games would end at halftime, we'd be above .500. I don't know what makes these kids come out in the second half like that. We even got a steal right off the bat and I thought we were going to get it going, but we couldn't put the ball in the hole."

The loss knocked the MHS girls back a notch to 5-12 for the year overall and 2-7 in the league while Andale boosted its record to 11-4.

"They threw a little trap at us in the third quarter but it hurt us a little but that's not what turned the game," confessed Dennis.

### Varsity Girls

Clearwater	10	4	8	10	32
Mulvane	6	12	8	4	30

Clearwater—Amy Bloomer 7, Faith Struthers 1, Emily Dunn 4, Rikki Hall 18, Tara Pauly 2. FG 13 (0), FT 2-21, F 13

Mulvane—Melissa Buchanan 8, Shelley Richards 4, Kristin Buchanan 4, Michelle Fowler 6, Lindsay Kendrick 8. FG 12 (1), FT 5-8, F 22

### Varsity Girls

Andale	6	4	24	9	43
Mulvane	6	16	6	5	33

Andale—Maggie Eck 9, Missy Eck 15, Jenny Kampling 6, Emmy Horsch 10, Rhonda Smith 2, Janet Eck 1. FG 17 (0), FT 9-18, F 15

Mulvane—Kassie Hargrove 7, Melissa Buchanan 5, Kristin Buchanan 3, Shelley Richards 7, Michelle Fowler 5, Lindsay Kendrick 6. FG 12 (1), FT 8-14, F 19

### Junior Varsity Girls

Andale	8	6	9	6	29
Mulvane	12	10	6	12	40

Andale—Janele Hilger 2, Abby Ungles 2, Steph Lervick 2, Rhonda Smith 8, Kim Thome 2, Miranda Sieler 2, Audne Doll 2, Kim Lies 3. FG 11 (0), FT 7-20, F 14

Mulvane—Aubrey Benjamin 6, Kristal LaPlant 4, Piper Roy 2, Arn Leonard 10, Natalie Turner 4, Shirah Craft 6, Carissa Ward 2, Erin French 2, Andrea Hufford 4. FG 17 (0), FT 6-10, F 21

Mulvane	4	6	11	4	24
Rose Hill	6	4	10	8	28

Mulvane—Kristal LaPlant 5, Aubrey Benjamin 6, Arin Leonard 4, Andrea Hufford 4, Shirah Craft 2, Carissa Ward 2, Piper Roy 1. FG 8 (1), FT 7-12, F 10

Rose Hill—Kara Brockmeier 4, Lindsay Anthis 13, Rachael Swenson 4, Martha Randall 4, Jen Draper 2, Natalie Hamlin 2, Bonnie Addington 2. FG 13 (0), Ft 2-5, F 15

# MULVANE

# Sports

"It was shooting. It was unbelievable. They couldn't miss."

Overall this season, Mulvane is hitting 28% from the field and even hitting their average would have made the Cats a winner. "A lot of problems go away when you're shooting the ball well. When you're not, not much else matters. I actually feel we're doing a lot of things well. In fact, this is the best the team has played since I've been here in a lot of areas. But we just went totally cold. I almost thought about not even going to the dressing room at halftime. I don't know if we are scared to win a big one because then it will be expected or what."

Dennis isn't getting consistent output from everybody on the floor, and nobody has stepped up in a big way—big as in double figures. Friday night, sophomore Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards popped in seven points each. Lindsay Kendrick scored six and both Melissa Buchanan and Michelle Fowler had five each.

The MHS junior varsity girls trounced Andale with a solid performance, pulling away in the final quarter behind good free throwing by Natalie Turner and Shirah Craft, each with a pair of free throws. The Cats won by a 40-29 count.

Arin Leonard had a big game with 10 points and Aubrey Benjamin and Craft finished with six apiece.

The girls have two regular season games remaining. They entertain Chaparral Friday, Feb. 20, before going to Circle Thursday, Feb. 26, for the regular season finale.