

MHS Girls Serve Notice; Jelling At Right Time

The Mulvane High School girls served notice last week. They served notice that they were ready to be a player in the sub-state jousting.

Coach Kelly Dennis' MHS Wildcat girls buried a former area powerhouse, Chaparral, in the final Cat home game of the 1995-96 campaign Friday night, Feb. 16. Mulvane pounded the Roadrunners, 65-35.

The significance, however, is not that the 65-point outburst was the best offensive showing for the last five years. It's that the game represented the fourth good showing by Dennis' Wildcats and it comes as the team is getting lined up to play in "the next season," the year-end sub-state tournament.

In the last two weeks, the Wildcats, who improved their record to 2-17 overall and 2-9 in the conference, have lined up and played the top teams in the conference almost to dead heats. The Cats lost to at CTL Division II leading Andale by one point (43-43), then took Clearwater, which is in second place in the league, to overtime before losing by a 44-39 count.

"We are playing much, much better," admitted Dennis after the 30-point victory which was the biggest in more than a decade and the biggest since Mulvane drubbed Andover, by 28 (62-34) during the 1987-88 season. "Chaparral is the first team that we've played that committed the type mistakes we normally have been committing, the unforced errors. They gave us the opportunity to get the ball back more easily. And we also were able to take the ball to the post. They played behind our post people, which helped, because they were much smaller than we were. That enabled us to enter the ball easier."

The Wildcats blew the game completely

Varsity Girls

Chaparral	6	10	13	6-35
Mulvane	14	13	16	22-65

Chaparral—Robyn Longbine 8, Wanda Matthews 7, Cami Drouhard 4, Kim Mathes 8, Kim Schmidt 2, Stacy Kastens 4, Kodi Bauer 2. FG 11 (0), FT 13-23, F 31.

Mulvane—Janelle Wenke 11, Dannelle Hughes 19, Valeri Larson 2, Anna Wenke 2, Lee Cates 7, Lindsay Kendrick 10, Crissy Carpenter 8, NiChelle Bruce 4, Carrie Burkhat 2. FG 24 (0), FT 17-40, F 21.

Junior Varsity Girls

Chaparral	6	10	10	14-40
Mulvane	13	9	9	14-45

Chaparral—Kendra Carothers 8, Kastens 6, Lindsay Greve 6, Kim Adams 6, Summer Lewis 4, Kodi Bauer 2, Leslee Thornton 3, Teresa Wiechen 2, Mandy Roberts 1, Tynoe Prouse 2. FG 11 (1), FT 15-28, F 19.

Mulvane—Rachel Rose 2, Heath Williams 3, NiChelle Bruce 3, Aimee Sargeant 2, Ashley McCoskey 8, Anna Wenke 5, Renee Herpolsheimer 2, Melissa Buchanan 7, Jennifer McCoskey 1, Shelley Richards 12. FG 18 (0), FT 9-23, F 23.

open in the fourth quarter after nursing a lead through the first three quarters. Mulvane broke ahead, 14-6, after one quarter and was up by 11 at intermission. In the last period, Mulvane out-scored the Roadrunners, 22-6.

"It was one of our better games," confessed Dennis, "although there were parts of it that weren't good. There was a point in the middle of the third quarter. I called time and got on the girls pretty good. They had to decide to stay in a close game or to pull away from them and the girls came out and responded. It was nice to see. I was interested to see what their response was going to be but they came out, picked it up and went after things."

Coach Dennis said the last quarter push was helped by Chaparral's foul trouble. "They were in foul trouble and had some starters out, but we were able to get some put-backs. Lee Cates shot well from the outside and Lindsay Kendrick did a nice job. It was one of her stronger games since the first of the year."

Although Chappy isn't the powerhouse it was six or seven years ago, the game was important in the CTL standings. Mulvane's victory kept the Cats a step ahead of Chaparral, which is in the basement alone.

Aggressive play marked the Mulvane offense. The previous highest out-put was 55 points against Wellington.

"We had our best shooting game," said Dennis. "You can look at where our shots were taken in the first half and 70% of them

were between five and eight feet from the basket. When you get that close, you should hit a pretty good percentage. That's why you don't want to settle for outside shots against a zone when you can get it inside."

Dennis said guards Cates, Carrie Burkhart and Crissy Carpenter did an excellent job of passing the ball inside. "The entry pass from those girls was excellent the whole game," said Dennis. "Cates had her best game of the year in all phases—passing, defense on the press and shooting—and Crissy did a great job, too. Carrie played about her best game of the season."

That passing enabled the Cats to finish with a 42% mark from the field, hitting 24 of 57 shots, "our best shooting game of the season."

Mulvane also did the job on the boards, out-rebounding Chappy as junior Dannelle Hughes pulled down nine caroms and Carpenter had five.

Hughes also led the inside rebellion for the Wildcats. She scored a game-high 19 points. Janelle Wenke finished with 11 points and reserve Lindsay Kendrick, a freshman, scored 10 points. Carpenter scored eight points and Cates had seven.

In the junior varsity contest, the Cats trimmed Chappy, 45-40, as Shelley Richards scored 12 points, Ashley McCoskey scored eight, Melissa Buchanan had seven and Anna Wenke scored five.

The Mulvane girls will complete their regular season schedule tonight (Feb. 22) when they travel to Circle in the final tune-up prior to sub-state play next week.