

Lights Out On Mulvane Girls' Year

The lights dimmed, then went down slowly on the Mulvane High School girls basketball season as the seconds ticked away Monday night, March 2, at Kingman.

It was kind of like the Wildcat offense. A season of scoring difficulty came to a close Monday night in the opening game of the Mulvane Class 4A Sub-State for the Wildcats as Kingman held on for a 40-36 triumph.

The loss ended the year for Coach Kelly Dennis' girls with a 6-15 record. Kingman (8-13) advanced into the semifinal round tonight (March 5), playing No. 1 seeded Clearwater (19-2) at 6 p.m. in the MHS gym. Wellington (6-15) and No. 3 seeded Rose Hill (14-7) tangle at 7:30.

Dennis was beside herself after the game. "It was the same old story, we couldn't get any offense generated," said Dennis. "Our defense did the job, and we did the job rebounding, but its hard to win when you don't shoot the ball."

The Wildcats held Kingman to 40 points after the Eagles had scored 60 or more the last five games. "We had some trouble inside," said Dennis. "Our outside defense did a great job but our post defense wasn't very good. Our rotation was poor but that's not what beat us. What beat us was our inability to score, and our inability to know what to do in certain situations."

The Wildcat girls got off to a horrible start, although Kingman couldn't pull away. "We played a terrible first quarter," pointed out Dennis. "The girls were so nervous. We threw the ball away, we travelled. We couldn't do anything. Thank God, Shelley was shooting the ball. That's the only thing that saved us early."

The poor start didn't really give Kingman a big edge because the Eagles could only manage an 8-7 lead in the first quarter and when the Cats continued to struggle offensively in the second quarter, their defense kept the game close. Mulvane only trailed, 18-13, at intermission.

Neither team could pull away. The Wildcats finally tied the score in the fourth quarter with about three minutes left to play. That's when it would have been nice to have an offensive threat to go to. "We won a lot of key games a year ago by having someone we could go to. We just didn't have anyone develop this year. Nobody seemed to want to get the ball when we needed a basket. We had the game tied up and had the ball three different times in the last quarter. In fact, it was tied up most of the time in the last quarter but we never could get the lead. We went about three minutes in the fourth quarter without scoring."

Junior Shelley Richards finished the game with nine points, tying senior Melissa Buchanan for high honors. Jackie McColpin dumped in eight points and Lindsay Kendrick finished with four.

"Shelley had eight in the first half," added the Wildcat coach. "We tried to move her around in the second half but we started getting good shots inside. We just didn't knock them down. That's been a problem all season long and it just never went away."

A flood of free throws drowned the Wildcat girls in their final regular season game of the year Thursday night, Feb. 26, at Circle. The Cats rallied from more than 20 points down but came up short as the Thunderbirds held on for a 59-51 victory.

The loss dropped Mulvane's girls to 6-14 overall and to 3-9 and a 6th place finish in the Chisholm Trail League. Circle ended its regular season at 13-7 and in 4th place in the CTL with a 6-6 record.

Melissa Buchanan had seven boards to pace the Cats. Kristin Buchanan had five, as did Richards and Heather Williams had three.

"I was really pleased the way we come back but I thought the girls gave up a little in the third quarter," said Dennis. "And it's

Mulvane Class 4A Girls Sub-State Results

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	7	6	12	11	36
Kingman	8	10	12	10	40

Mulvane - Shelley Richards 9, Jackie McColpin 8, Lindsay Kendrick 4, Melissa Buchanan 9, Kassie Hargrove 2, Kristin Buchanan 3. FG 15 (0), FT 6-11, F 18.

Kingman - Abby Young 6, Jennifer McGinnis 3, Dana Parsons 2, Carrie Miller 14, Sarah Knapic 10, Cindy Hageman 2, Messinger 3. FG 14 (1), FT 9-18, F 14

Clearwater 74, Chaparral 27
Rose Hill 62, Douglass 30
Wellington 49, Pratt 43

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	9	11	14	17	51
Circle	15	13	23	8	59

Mulvane - Melissa Buchanan 4, Michelle Fowler 3, Shelley Richards 20, Kassie Hargrove 4, Kristin Buchanan 7, Lindsay Kendrick 11, Jackie McColpin 2. FG 20 (4), FT 7-12, F 21.

Circle - Jessica Ammerman 2, Anna Short 2, Danielle Hecker 13, Allison Berry 3, Ken Seidl 19, Gina Hall 2, Amber Laughlin 15, Mica Hammer 3. FG 15 (5), FT 24-35, F 17

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	2	9	5	6	22
Circle	10	10	13	11	46

Mulvane - Shiriah Craft 6, Aubrey Benjamin 4, Ann Leonard 2, Natalie Turner 3, Andrea Hufford 3, Kristal LaPlant 2, Piper Roy 2. FG 10 (1), FT 1-8, F 13.

Circle - Megan Carson 10, Cori Sullard 2, Tracy Pursell 2, Abby Davis 12, Sandra Dugan 4, Laine Pond 17, Michelle Todd 1. FG 20 (0), FT 8-21, F 13

frustrating to watch the fouls mount and not rectify that. I thought we would stop fouling them before the end of the game but we never did."

Richards had her finest game, scoring 20 points including the first eight for Mulvane. Kendrick scored 11 points and Kristin Buchanan had seven.

In the final junior varsity game of the year, Circle trounced Coach Dale Landes' Cats, 46-22, as Mulvane went cold. Shiriah Craft led the MHS offense with six points. Aubrey Benjamin scored four points and both Andrea Hufford and Natalie Turner had three.