

Girls Stumble In First Round

It didn't take El Dorado long to tuck the Mulvane High School girls away in the first game of the season Tuesday night, Dec. 6, in the opening round of the Circle Thunderbird Girls Classic.

By the end of the first quarter, the Wildcats from Mulvane went tame, trailing, 25-6, and the El Dorado Wildcats marched on to a 77-24 victory. That pushed the MHS Cats into the consolation bracket, where they will play Sunrise Christian at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in the next round.

"They shot everything in the paint, they were bigger than we were, they shot over us, around us and through us," said Ron McMahon, the Mulvane High girls coach. "And while they were making their shots, we were missing ours. That was the story of the game. We didn't shoot well and they did."

El Dorado hit 33% from the field and dominated play in the paint. Mulvane hit only 16% of its field attempts.

"When we don't shoot the ball well, we don't run our offense," said McMahon. "The few shots we got in the paint didn't go down even though they should have. I think it was a good learning experience. We went through the same kind of thing last year when we started slowly. We got through it and finally put some things together."

Mulvane and El Dorado slugged it out for the first few minutes before El Dorado made it's first big spurt. "I made some changes and we just didn't to their pressure so they got a few quick points. Later, (Janelle) Wenke got into foul trouble land we had to take her out and that hurt because she gave us some good size in there and some scoring."

The junior Wenke led the Cats in the scoring column—she had seven points. Valerie Larson scored five points and both Courtney Renfro and Heidi Parker had four points.

"Everybody got a chance to play and we looked at a lot of people," said the Mulvane coach. "We started out in a 'man' defense and stayed there so we could look at and evaluate our personnel. One of the problems we had was we weren't getting back quick

enough on defense and that led to a number of easy baskets for them. Frankly, we were just out-manned. We knew it going in because we are pretty small. Plus, we were playing a team that had a game under its belt and that does make a difference."

Overall, McMahon said he was pleased with the play of sophomore Carrie Burkhart. "She played well both on offense and defense," said McMahon. "We had some girls who looked good on offense but they didn't on defense, and we had some who looked good on defense but not on offense. Carrie played both well."

Another big difference was at the free throw stripe. El Dorado shot 45 free throws and the Wildcats shot only 19. The Ark Valley Wildcats also dominated the boards. El Dorado pulled down 47 rebounds to 31 for Mulvane. Mulvane also had 23 turnovers to help seal its doom.

Circle Thunderbird Girls Classic Results

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 6 7 7 4—24
El Dorado 25 19 17 16—77
Mulvane—Janelle Wenke 7, Courtney Renfro 4, Heidi Parker 4, Valerie Larson 5, Crissy Carpenter 2, Danielle Hughes 2. FG 9 (0), FT 6-19, F 29.

El Dorado—Page 18, Bohannon 14, Miller 15, Rein 16, Hiebert 4, Gardner 6, Byfield 2, Fowler 2. FG 27 (0), FT 23-45, F 18

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Andover 70, Sunrise Christian 46
Arkansas City 60, Circle 46
Independence 63, Wellington 48

Tournament Pairings

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

Game 5 - Wellington vs. Circle, Gym No 2, 6:15 p.m.
Game 6 - Independence vs. Arkansas City, No. 1, 6:15
Game 7 - Sunrise vs. Mulvane, No. 2, 8
Game 8 - Andover vs. El Dorado, No. 1, 8

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

Game 9 (Seventh Place) - losers of games 5 and 7, gym No 2, 11:30 a.m.
Game 10 (Fifth Place) - winners of games 5 and 7, No. 2, 1:15 p.m.
Game 11 (Third Place) - losers of games 6 and 8, No. 2, 3
Game 12 (Championship) - winners of games 6 and 8, No. 1, 7