

Passing Drags Wildcats Down

A flood of 26 turnovers, most of them unforced, swept the Mulvane High School girls away in their season opener at home Friday night, Dec. 5, against Kingman.

The Wildcats had a hard time putting together five passes without a mistake, and that was a mistake, as the Eagles throttled the MHS girls, 49-32, as both teams started their seasons.

The Wildcat girls were to have played Douglass in the opening round of the Mulvane Early Season Tournament Tuesday night, Dec. 9, but the 1st round of games in the round-robin tournament were postponed because of bad weather Tuesday.

The first round of the tournament was moved to Wednesday, Dec. 10, instead because of the ice/snow storm that swept through Mulvane earlier Tuesday.

The ineffective passing kept the Wildcats off balance the whole game offensively with one poor pass after another. "The girls played hard and that was a positive thing," pointed out Coach Miller. "But we were too sloppy with the basketball. We didn't handle the ball well and that killed us. You don't expect to come out and run everything perfectly, but you also don't expect to come out and pass it as poorly as we passed it."

The Eagles took the lead early and held it the rest of the way, although the Cat girls had spurts where they would cut it to six or eight points only to have Kingman bounce back with key buckets to regain the momentum.

"You kind of expect some turnovers early in the season but we had way too many of them," added Miller. "It wasn't like we were pressured into them either. It was like we made them with bad decisions and sloppy ballhandling. A lot of the time, we tried to do more than we were capable of doing."

"Then, the offense got frustrated because we weren't scoring so the girls started taking quicker shots. At a time when we needed to get more patient with our shots, we started shooting them more quickly."

"We also played pretty much on one side of the floor all night. We didn't move the ball around the horn to the other side. That just makes it easier to defend you. We talked a lot about that in practice Saturday. We want to get the girls to move the ball around. It's always better when you attack

Varsity Girls

Kingman	10	11	11	13	49
Mulvane	6	14	6	6	32

Kingman: Trudi Conner 4, Staci Brittan 16, Sara Giesling 4, Jessica Blackwell 12, Kayla Vecchiarelli 13. FG 18 (1), FT 12 (9), FT 1-16.

Mulvane: Whitney Becker 3, Shayna Duncan 6, Abby Sorensen 7, Stephanie Tatum 5, Josey Gosch 11. FG 12 (2), FT 6 (9), FT 1-19.

Girls Junior Varsity

Kingman	5	10	5	7	27
Mulvane	13	3	13	8	38

Kingman: Annie Osner 7, Kristielyn Wapellhorst 7, Hannah Blackburn 3, Betsy Gonzalez 3, Crystal Funke 7. FG 9 (3), FT 6 (9), FT 8.

Mulvane: Megan Turner 10, Tara Roberts 8, Amy Phillips 2, Jessica Martin 4, Kristi Parker 4, Tasha Parman 2, Laura Buchanan 6, Josey Gosch 2. FG 16 (1), FT 5 (6), FT 1-12.

from several different locations."

So instead of a glorious start at home, the Cats were saddled with a lopsided loss as Kingman pulled away in the final half by outscoring the host Cats, 25-12.

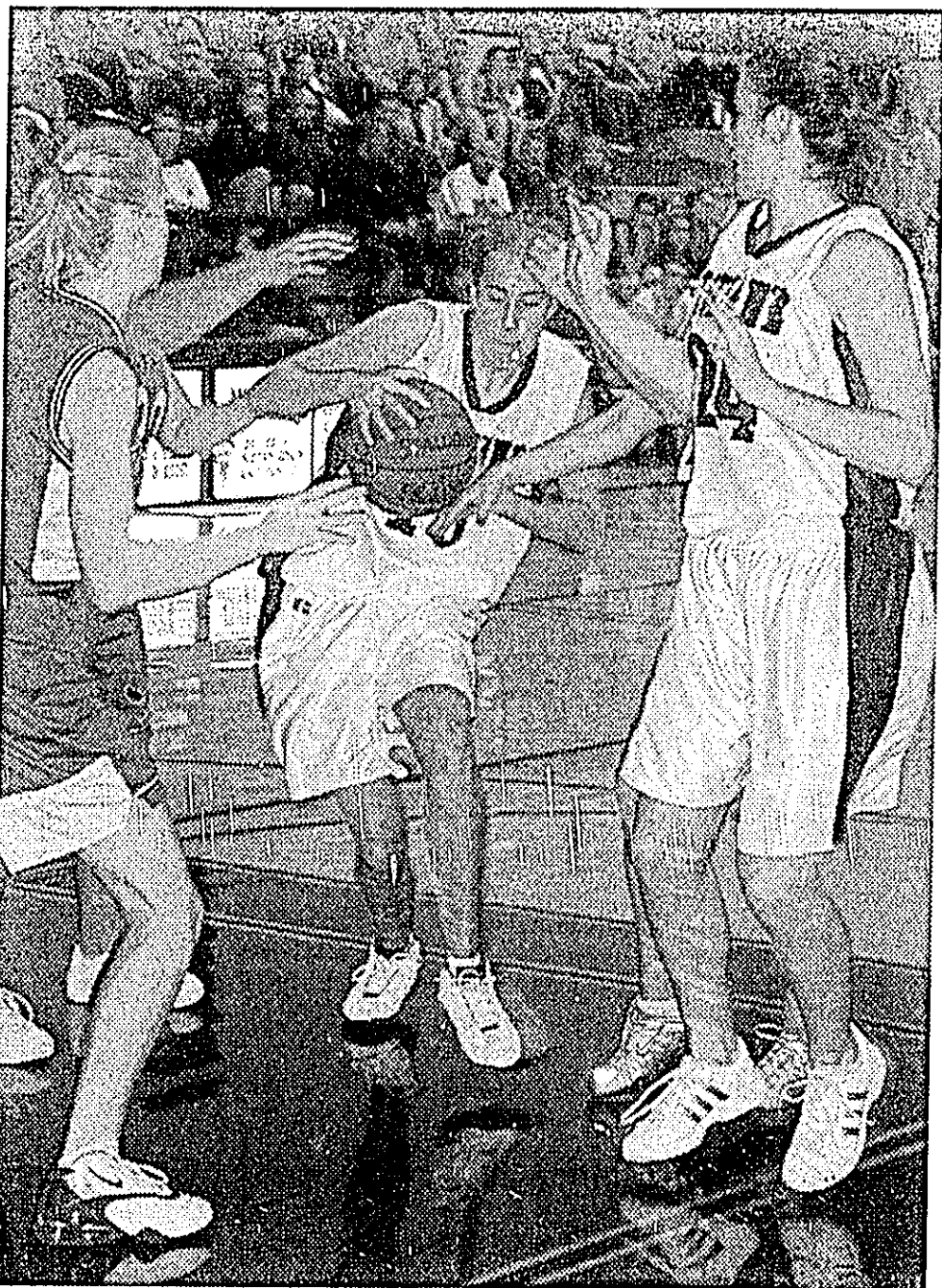
It wasn't the way I wanted to start the season but I told the girls afterwards that I was pleased with their effort," said Miller. "With all the mistakes we made and with the defensive lapses, we were still in the ball game most of the way. The girls fought the whole game and didn't give up. Now we just need to go back into the film room and see how we can play better with the same kind of intensity."

One of the bright spots coming out of the game was the play of untested sophomore Josey Gosch, who played a marvelous game offensively. She finished with a team best 11 points and hit some free throws—nobody else did. Overall, Mulvane was 6 for 19 at the stripe.

"Josey came off the bench and had a good performance," agreed the MHS coach. "We expected that from her but she's not ready to shoulder the whole scoring load by herself. She knew what to do when she got the ball in the paint and she came off the bench with a lot of energy."

Guard Abby Sorensen scored seven points, hitting two "threes." Veteran post player Shayna Duncan, the No. 1 scorer last year for Mulvane, had a shaky start, scoring only six points. Senior Stephanie Tatum finished with five points.

Mulvane pounded the Eagles in the junior varsity outing, 38-27. Top scorers for the Cats were Megan Turner with 10 points, Tara Roberts with eight and Laura Buchanan with six.



Natasha Parman (10) drives into the paint against the Eagles in Mulvane's opener