

In Semifinals

Girls Learn Win Combo

The Mulvane High School girls rebounded through knowledge. They were dropped in the season opener Friday, Dec. 6, at Buhler but came back in the opening round of the Thunderbird Girls Classic at Circle Monday, Dec. 9, to out-last Arkansas City, 56-42.

The first-round winner puts the Cats up against Valley Center at 8 p.m. tonight (Dec. 12) in a semifinal game. VC rallied to clip the host Thunderbirds, 55-51, in the first round. Other opening games found El Dorado burying Rose Hill, 67-33, and Independence trouncing Andover, 62-32.

The 3rd place game will be played at 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, and the championship game will be at 8 that same night. Mulvane finished 5th last year after losing to Independence on opening night.

"There were some things we needed to improve on from the opener at Buhler and we improved in those two areas," emphasized Gregg Wolgast, the MHS girls coach. "We didn't allow very many offensive rebounds and we did a much better job playing defense, getting help from the weak side. Those are two areas which weren't up to par at Buhler, but we worked on them and did a great job Monday night."

Wolgast said the improved team defense was the difference in the game. "We didn't have much of a chance to work on that except for Saturday and the girls realized they weren't helping out on defense when they could," said Wolgast.

The Wildcats also were able to penetrate the Arkansas City defense and get the ball inside to senior standout Denise Wilson, who finished with a game-high 23 points. "Their inside defense was a little weak and we were able to slip the ball inside," said Wolgast. "We had heard one of their weaknesses was post defense. Denise did a great job getting open and Sheila (Mills), Lee (Banzet) and Tricia (Turner) all did a good job getting the ball inside to her."

Guard Tammy Withrow scored 10 points and was the only other MHS player in double figures. Junior Sheila Mills scored six points and Tricia Turner had eight.

"I thought we did a much better job of pressuring the ball, too," added Wolgast. "That helped get them out of their offense. They had to start their offense quite a ways away from the basket. Our defense, especially in the second half, did a great job, forcing a lot of bad passes."

Senior Dawn Hicks also did quite a job on Ark City's No. 1 gun, Jill Bernhardt. She shut her down with only four points.

Circle Thunderbird Girls Classic Results

FIRST ROUND

Arkansas City 12 8 8 14-42
 Mulvane 11 15 14 16-56
 Arkansas City—Tami Dubach 3, Kristen Mason 8, Jill Bernhardt 4, Ragan Noble 3, Candy King 16, Diamond Anderson 4, Jennifer Snowden 8. FG 17-31 (3), FT 5-13, F 18.

Mulvane—Tammy Withrow 10, Tricia Turner 8, Sheila Mills 6, Denise Wilson 23, Dawn Hicks 4, Deva Lewis 2, Lee Banzet 4, Kendra Mow 1, Stephanie Schultz 2. FG 22-38 (0), FT 12-19, F 21.

Valley Center 55, Circle 51
 El Dorado 67, Rose Hill 33
 Independence 62, Andover 32

Varsity Girls

Mulvane 10 14 10 13-47
 Buhler 12 15 11 16-54
 Mulvane—Tricia Turner 14, Tammy Withrow 4, Sheila Mills 15, Denise Wilson 10, Deva Lewis 2, Kendra Mow 2. FG 21 (0), FT 5-7, F 21.
 Buhler—Angie Rose 6, Michelle Meyers 12, Kim Fry 8, Susan Shea 23, Learnie Korinek 2, Heather Barnes 1, Trisha Fonwick 2. FG 21 (0), FT 12-27, F 12.

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane 1 9 6 5-21
 Buhler 13 13 12 12-50
 Mulvane—Lee Banzet 9, Kendra Mow 6, Stephanie Schultz 4, Marianne Smyssor 1, Stacy Strack 1. FG 6-19 (0), FT 9-21, F 30.
 Buhler—Jessica Shank 11, Kristi Knox 11, Faye Promer 9, Chanda Regier 4, Heather Goedert 3, Amber Spillum 2, Maria Logan 2, Stacie Friesen 2, Lanette Surface 1, Kristi Korinek 1. FG 18-40 (0), FT 14-24, F 28.



Circle Thunderbird Girls Classic Pairings Tonight (Dec. 12)

Game 5 — Arkansas City vs. Circle, gym No. 1, 6:15 p.m.

Game 6 — Rose Hill vs. Andover, gym No. 2, 6:15

Game 7 — Mulvane vs. Valley Center, gym No. 1, 8

Game 8 — El Dorado vs. Independence, gym No. 2, 8

Saturday, Dec. 14

Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of games 5 and 6, gym No. 2, 4:30 p.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 6, gym No. 1, 4:30

Game 11 (Third Place)—losers of games 7 and 8, gym No. 1, 6:15

Game 12 (Championship)—winners of games 7 and 8, gym No. 1, 8

After a slow start, which saw Ark City drop in a couple of three-pointers in the first quarter, the Cats started taking control of the tourney contest. Mulvane out-scored the Bulldogs, 15-8, in the 2nd period and rolled out to a 12-point lead after three quarters.

"We played with a little more intensity in the second half," said Wolgast. "Our bench also came in and did a good job. They played good enough to be able to rest people. We had fresh people on the floor all night." Wolgast singled out for praise Deva Lewis, Kandi Strong and Banzet off the bench.

The taller Cats also controlled the backboards, gaining a 37-23 edge in rebounding. Wilson had 10 to led the Wildcats. Hicks had six and Banzet, Turner and Withrow had four boards apiece.

The Wildcats opened the campaign with a Chisholm Trail League game at Buhler Friday, Dec. 6, and the host Crusaders landed a knock-out punch late in the game to win, 54-47.

"It was a pretty close game most of the way but we got into some foul trouble and they were able to pull away," said Wolgast. "We gave them too many offensive rebounds and those put-backs really hurt. That kind of showed our inexperience.

"And our man-to-man defense needs some improvement. We need to do a better job helping out once someone gets past their defender. That's another experience factor. You want to play your man but you also want to see the floor, see what's going on around you."

The Crusaders controlled the rebound war, 32-20, as Wilson, a senior, picked off eight boards, Mills had six and Turner five.

"For a first game, I thought we did well for only one starter coming back," added Wolgast. "I was pleased the way we hung in there at the end of the game despite our foul trouble. Both our big people (Mills and Wilson) were in trouble. The foul shooting helped them win the game, too."

Buhler shot 27 free throws while the Cats shot only seven.

"Overall, I thought we played better in our first game than we did last year in our first game (a 60-50 setback to Independence in the Thunderbird Classic). And the problems I saw are ones which can be handled. We can improve."

The veteran Turner scored 14 points and Mills scored 15 as the Wildcats featured a well-balanced offense. Wilson finished with 10 points while Withrow scored four.

The Mulvane junior varsity had trouble getting things rolling in its first contest. Buhler drilled the jayvees from MHS, 50-21. Mulvane's top scorers were Banzet with nine points, Kendra Mow with six and Stephanie Schultz with four.