

## First Round

# Cat Cagers Hang In Against Lions

Two letdowns is all the Lions needed. Mulvane High School's girls played Goddard tough Tuesday night, Dec. 10, in the opening round of the Circle Thunderbird Classic but the Lions made the most of two Mulvane letdowns for a 64-43 victory in the first round.

That pushed Coach Kelly Dennis' Wildcats into the loser's bracket, where they will tangle with Chanute at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, in the semifinal round of the eight-team tournament. The tourney is providing the first games of the year for Mulvane this year.

"I thought we played really hard and really well," emphasized Dennis. "We played about as hard as we could have played. By the fourth quarter, they kind of wore us down. They played 10 girls and had more depth than we did."

Coach Dennis pointed to two letdowns earlier in the game as the keys to the loss. "They came right out and hit three three-pointers in the first quarter, otherwise, we're right there with them," said Dennis. "Another big bucket was in the last minute or so of the first half. We were within four points but they got two steals and lay-ups, then they got an off-balance bucket at the buzzer which made it a 12-point difference. We should have been within a couple points then."

Dennis, starting her second season with the Wildcats, felt like her Cats had nothing to be ashamed of. "We really played the No. 5 ranked 5A team tough," said Dennis. "When we forced them into their half-court offense, we played them even but they won the battle out of the transition game. That's where they beat us."

Dennis also feels the Wildcats answered the question about whether or not they could handle the pressure defenses. Last year, that was a serious problem that never got solved. "We handled their pressure defense pretty well," said Dennis. "Our

## Circle Thunderbird Girls Classic Results

### FIRST ROUND

|         |    |    |    |       |
|---------|----|----|----|-------|
| Mulvane | 9  | 11 | 11 | 12-43 |
| Goddard | 18 | 14 | 18 | 14-64 |

Mulvane--Carrie Burkhart 1, Crissy Carpenter 8, Lindsay Kendrick 1, Dannelle Hughes 22, Kristen Buchanan 2, Melissa Buchanan 11. FG 17 (0), FT 9-18, F 15.

Goddard--Katy Letts 12, Tonya Brown 2, Lindsay Meng 11, Sharlee Beiter 5, Amy Craig 5, Jenny Shepherd 13, Tammy Schneider 10, Lynn LaBrue 6. FG 22 (4), FT 10-17, F 17.

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Arkansas City 46, Chanute 28

Circle 42, Andover 38

El Dorado 56, Independence 39

## Circle Thunderbird Girls Classic Pairings

### FRIDAY, DEC. 13

Game 5 -- Mulvane vs. Chanute, gym No. 2, 6:15 p.m.

Game 6 -- Goddard vs. Arkansas City, gym No. 1, 6:15

Game 7 -- Andover vs. Independence, gym No. 2, 8

Game 8 -- Circle vs. El Dorado, gym No. 1, 8

### SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Game 9 (Seventh Place)--losers of games 5 and 7, 11:30 a.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)--winners of games 5 and 7, 1:15 p.m.

Game 11 (Third Place)--losers of games 6 and 8, gym No. 1, 3

Game 12 (First Place)--winners of games 6 and 8, gym No. 1, 7

guards didn't back down. We cleared out and let Lindsay Kendrick bring it up and I think she did a pretty good job. The positive thing is that the turnovers we had weren't in backcourt, they were under the basket. I was pretty happy with that."

The Cat guards also did a good job feeding the ball inside, too. That led to a big game from senior Dannelle Hughes, who blistered the Lions for 22 points. Another frontliner, Melissa Buchanan, finished with 11 points and Crissy Carpenter scored eight points.

"I'm just really pleased," said Dennis. "It was open inside all night and our guards got the ball where they are supposed to inside. Dannelle had a huge night and she missed a lot of shots that she's going to make one of these nights. Melissa also had a good game inside."