

3-0

Wildcat Gals Keep Streak Alive --Barely

Nobody can believe it. Three short years ago, Mulvane girls basketball coach Bill Brown was talking "moral victories" but going through the growing pains that go hand-in-hand with success.

Today, the Wildcat girls' cage program has matured into something bigger than simple "almosts."

Three victories under their belts, the gals step up to get their biggest goal in range Friday night, Dec. 14, as they travel to Clearwater to meet a strong Indian team. Another victory would give Brown the feeling he could take anyone.

The Wildcats capped a stunning game Friday night, Dec. 7, at home against Kingman with a last-second shot by senior Shelley Gerlach to give Brown's bombers a 40-39 victory.

After a see-saw contest, the Wildcats fell behind a point, 39-38, with less than a half-minute to tick. Mulvane's Denise Standerfer, one of the eventual heroines, shot the front end of a one-and-one with 18 seconds left and missed. The Cats retrieved the rebound but Mulvane was called for a lane violation with 11 seconds left.

That set up the fateful play. After a time out, Standerfer pressured the inbounds pass and deflected the ball, picked it up and shot. She missed but a foul was called.

Again to the line, Denise again missed but junior Arlene Reekie rebounded and passed to Gerlach, who whirled and threw up a 13-footer. It nestled into the nets as time expired.

"On that play under our basket, you try to put pressure on the player who throws it in, you try to keep it from

Girls Varsity

Kingman 8 12 6 11 -- 39
Mulvane 12 6 11 9 -- 40
Kingman--Kelli Slack 18, Brenda Bales 4, Angie Schrag 2, Charlene Zerger 4, Anne Boyer 2, Rene Fairchild 7, Tanya Fillingham 2. FG 16-55, Ft 7-14, F 19.

Mulvane--Cindy Nelson 2, Arlene Reekie 5, Sandy Whetstone 6, Shelley Gerlach 7, Cindi Lawless 5, Denise Standerfer 13. FG 16-54, FT 8-26, F 16.

Girls B-Team

Kingman 9 12 9 10 -- 40
Mulvane 2 4 2 3 -- 11

Kingman--Mary Adelhardt 6, Angie Schrag 4, Catherine Winchester 2, Karen Baker 7, Christie Hamper 6, Anne Boyer 6, Tanya Fillingham 2, Charlene Zerger 2, Rene Fairchild 3, Janene Kaufman 2. FG 19-52, FT 2-6, F 15.

Mulvane--Susan Heatly 2, Dee Dee Rafter 1, Kristi Lawless 2, Vickie Powell 3, Sandy Rogers 1. FG 4-34, FT 3-3, F 8.

coming in," said Brown. "We practiced it a few times but you don't expect it to work like it did."

It did and Gerlach did.

"When you get down to those last few seconds, let's face it, everything's luck anyway," added Brown. "It just happened to be in our favor. Gerlach did the same thing last year in the Caldwell Tournament."

It was a good ending for a so-so performance by the 3-0 Cats, especially in the shooting department. "We did everything right but the shots didn't fall," said Brown. "We had a bad shooting night. I think we missed four or five shots right there inside. We're probably 10 or 15 points better (than Kingman) but we just didn't shoot."

Overall, Mulvane finished with a 29.7 percent shooting mark, 16 for 54. In rebounding, Mulvane had to take a back seat to Kingman despite 15 caroms turned in by Standerfer. Kingman had

43 rebounds to only 34 for Mulvane. No. 2 high for the Wildcats was Arlene Reekie with six.

"Overall, I think we played a pretty good game," added Brown. "We got the ball where we wanted it to go. We just couldn't do anything with it when we got it there." Brown said he feels a sense of maturing with the club, something that he hasn't seen in the four-year-old Mulvane program.

"They're getting confidence out there as they go along," stressed Brown. "Another big win Friday night and the confidence will really be there. There are a lot of things you can't coach. You just have to go over and over in game situations. You have to reach a point where you don't have to stop and think because if you do, you're going to be a step too late. I believe we're there."

Standerfer had one of her better games. In addition to getting 15 boards, Denise led the team with 13 points. Gerlach finished with seven and guard Sandy Whetstone scored six.

"Whetstone really kept us in the ball game in the second quarter," said Brown. "Not so much with her offense as her defense. She kept breaking up fast breaks and made a couple of interceptions while everybody else just stood around defensively."

Coach Kim Frank's B-team again failed to show much offense in a 40-11 loss to Kingman B-teamers.

Vickie Powell led the Mulvane junior varsity with three points and Kristi Lawless and Susan Heatly each had two points.