

Girls Start To Love Early Season Meet

Jayson Miller's starting to get a fond feeling for the Early Season Tournament the Mulvane High School girls start the season with, and with good reason.

His Wildcat girls have dominated the last two of the rotating tournaments. The tournament is rotated between the four schools involved—Douglass, Rose Hill, Oxford and Mulvane—but it was home, sweet home last week at Oxford as the Cats swept past the other schools by an average of more than 21 points. Mulvane's girls raised their record to 3-0 Saturday, Dec. 8, as they toppled Rose Hill by 19, 54-35, in the game that pitted the only two undefeated squads against each other.

The Rockets went downhill fast in the second half as the MHS defense allowed only nine points—two in the final stanza—to enlarge on a 29-26 halftime lead. The Cats put Mulvane on the travelling trophy for the second straight season.

Earlier, Mulvane rocked Douglass, 62-42, in a second round game Friday night, Dec. 7, and started the tournament by easily smothering the host Oxford Wildcats, 50-22, Thursday, Dec. 6.

"I was pretty happy with all three victories," said Miller. "I thought we shot better than expected since it was our opening action, but I was a little disappointed in our rebounding. We also turned the ball over a lot more than we should have. Our on the ball defense was better than I expected."

That's the Wildcat game in a nutshell. Good defense, good shooting and more size than the other three opponents made it a light working week. A year ago, the Cats sailed through the tournament winning by an average of 17-plus points.

"The good thing is that we can play better," said Miller. "I didn't think our post play was that good at all. The girls put up some decent numbers because they were

Oxford Early Season Girls Tournament

CHAMPIONSHIP

Mulvane	15	14	13	12—54
Rose Hill	11	15	7	2—35
Mulvane—Melissa Doerfer 14, Shayna Duncan 2, Sami Booth 8, Kris Lazar 20, LaShelle Parker 5, Abby Sorensen 1, Kim Mangus 2, Kari Leonard 2. FG 19 (0), FT 16-25, F 23.				
Rose Hill—Erica Rothweiler 7, Nicole Ringwald 1, Jenny Barnes 5, Amanda George 3, Jessica Thomas 8, Lucy Barres 5, Brittany Scogin 6. FG 9 (2), FT 15-28, F 18.				

THIRD PLACE

Douglass 55, Oxford 43

SECOND ROUND

Douglass	10	7	6	19—42
Mulvane	14	16	22	10—62
Douglass—Joyce Sanderson 2, Becky Cross 9, Erika Patterson 7, Kelley Currie 2, Whitney Coleman 4, Crystal Seal 7, Lexie Frakes 3, Tessa Keith 8. FG 9 (2), FT 22-46, F 21.				
Mulvane—Shayna Duncan 5, Melissa Doerfer 15, LaShelle Parker 12, Sami Booth 13, Kris Lazar 10, Kari Leonard 1, Kim Mangus 2, Abby Sorensen 5. FG 24 (3), FT 11-25, F 30.				

Rose Hill 44, Oxford 37

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	20	9	12	7—50
Oxford	3	2	5	12—22
Mulvane—Sami Booth 6, Kris Lazar 6, LaShelle Parker 13, Shayna Duncan 4, Melissa Doerfer 2, Michelle Dinkel 2, Kayla Linnebur 2, Abby Sorensen 7, Kim Mangus 4, Kari Leonard 4. FG 23 (0), FT 4-7, F 19.				
Oxford—Lacey Rowe 7, Melissa Wheeler 2, Katie Houk 5, Kris Wittenborn 2, Shannon Schultz 2, Aniesa Slack 1, Laken Mapel 3. FG 9 (1), FT 3-15, F 8.				

Rose Hill 48, Douglass 39

bigger than the other teams, but our best two players in the tournament were (guard) Melissa Doerfer and Sami Booth. Our big people were in foul trouble the whole tournament. It's difficult to get anything going when you have two all-leaguers on the bench with foul trouble."

The Cat defense picked up the slack, though, and so did the depth. Ten players scored in the opening victory over Oxford and

eight scored in both the 2nd and final games.

Kris Lazar had a big finale, scoring 20 points inside. Doerfer finished with 14 against the Rockets. Booth had eight points and center LaShelle Parker finished with five after being dogged by foul trouble during the game.

The Cats put Rose Hill away quickly after intermission and didn't give up a field goal in the final quarter. "They made a game of it in the second quarter because our half-court defense wasn't very good but after halftime, we did much better. They only had two field goals the whole second half."

The Cats went into the game with a solid feeling of confidence, having won the tournament a year ago. "With everybody back, I just tried to emphasize that we needed to go out there and take care of business. Being one of the better teams and doing that are sometimes two different things, so I was pleased that the girls put out the effort to get it done. We still have some things to fix, but as long as you have intensity, I think the other things kind of fall into place."

Miller also was happy with the balance shown. Seniors Kim Mangus and Kari Leonard came off the bench to score in all three games. Freshman Abby Sorensen, seeing her first varsity experience, scored in all three games. And sophomore Shayna Duncan, making her first starts, scored in each of the games.

Against Douglass, the Wildcats gained momentum in the second and third periods, out-scoring the Bulldogs, 38-13, to take complete control of the game. "Our Douglass game was not our best performance," said Miller. "We had good intensity but we got into foul trouble big-time. Our post people were all in foul trouble but Doerfer and Sami just carried us, especially in the first half. Sami went to work on the boards and Doerfer really picked up her scoring."

A senior, Booth finished with 12 rebounds against the Bulldogs and had 13 points. Doerfer was the scoring leader, hitting for 15 points. Two other Cats gave Miller's troopers four double-figure scorers. Parker finished with 12 points and Lazar scored 10. Sorensen and Duncan hit for five points apiece.

Mulvane took off on Oxford, using a smothering man defense and controlling the boards. Mulvane's 20-3 edge after one quarter took the worry out of the game. By intermission, it was 29-5.

For our first games, I was very pleased with our intensity defensively," said Miller. "Right off the bat, we were very intense," said Miller. "We forced 33 turnovers against Oxford. We got off to a good start in every single game, which is good. That comes from coming out with excellent intensity all over the floor. But that doesn't mean we don't have to have certain players on the floor. Foul troubles ended up being a big distraction for us because we had two or three people in foul trouble every game. When we go into the league, that can't happen if we expect to compete."

Parker led all scorers with 13 points against Oxford despite her foul troubles. Sorensen finished No. 2 in the offensive department, scoring seven points in her varsity debut. Lazar and Booth had six points each and Duncan, Leonard and Mangus finished with four points each.

The Mulvane girls will have their first Chisholm Trail League test Friday night, Dec. 14, when Valley Center comes to MHS. Valley is one of the teams to beat in the league if the Cats expect to move up to contender level.



Wildcats Melissa Doerfer (5) and Kris Lazar (50) shut off the baseline against RH