

Cat Girls Use Defense To Tone Down Rockets

The Mulvane High School girls picked their best "plum" of the season Tuesday night, Dec. 15, when they went to Rose Hill.

Coming off their first victory of the season, Mulvane put together a second half rally, then held off the Rockets to claim a 46-44 triumph in a non-league game at Rose Hill.

"We did a pretty nice job over there," said Gregg Wolgast, the Mulvane girls coach. "The difference in the game was our defense. We're probably not going to out-score many people we play but we can even things out by playing better defense. That's what we did at Rose Hill. They didn't get many good shots inside. We forced them to shoot outside with our zone."

Rose Hill had less than 10 shots in the paint against Mulvane, and once the Wildcat offense started clicking better in the second half, the Cats pushed their way to the top and stayed there.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	8	12	16	11-46
Rose Hill	12	15	6	8-44

Mulvane—Marcy Arnold 10, Anna Turner 4, Kristi McDowell 2, Stephanie Schultz 2, Lee Banzet 2, Robin Smith 4, Cody Watson 4, Deva Lewis 7, Sheila Mills 11. FG 19-42 (0), FT 8-14, F 14.

Rose Hill—Jill Jackson 7, Brandi Nickell 16, Cheri Boettcher 4, Kristi Ivy 2, Gina Brockmeier 4, Arien Diamond 5, Stephanie Kendall 4, Anna Howell 2. FG 18-51 (2), FT 6-11, F 21.

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	6	10	2	5-23
Rose Hill	10	5	5	10-30

Mulvane—Kristi McDowell 4, Stephanie Schultz 9, Gayle Samuelson 4, Lee Banzet 2, Marcy Arnold 2, Shannon Reed 2. FG 11 (1), FT 0-2, F 12.

Rose Hill—Allison Cox 4, Mandy Scantlin 8, Denise Thompson 6, Jenny Stearns 4, Kristi Ivy 2, Stephanie Kendall 2, Tammy Zuhars 2, Carrie Williams 2. FG 13 (0), FT 4-9, F 10.

Rose Hill raced to the early lead by out-scoring Mulvane, 12-8, in the first quarter. By intermission, the Rockets were ahead by seven, but Mulvane's defense held RH to only 17 points in the second half. "We made some adjustments to what they were trying to do on offense," said Wolgast. "The girls made the adjustments we talked about at halftime and we shut their baseline off. We also wanted to make the Nickell girl shoot on the move and we did that, too."

On offense, the Wildcats started moving the ball better and that opened up scoring chances for everybody. In fact, eight girls scored for Wolgast's team. "We just moved the ball better and passed better in the second half," said Wolgast. "Also, the girls did a better job on our press offense. Anna Turner had her best game of the year as far as taking care of the ball. Once we started taking care of the ball, everybody seemed to get more comfortable out there and the offense fell into place."

Mulvane out-scored RH, 16-6, in the 3rd quarter to take the lead but it was close the rest of the way. With about a minute to play, the Rockets, trailing by four, started fouling and the Cats missed three one-and-ones

before Deva Lewis hit the front end of two with 14 seconds left to give Mulvane a two-point lead.

"Hopefully, we gained confidence with this victory and our last one," said Wolgast. "Winning against a good team like Rose Hill should be a real boost for our confidence."

Senior Sheila Mills again paced the scoring charts for the Wildcats, but she had plenty of assistance this game. Alayna Arnold

had a career-best 10 points, Lewis finished with five and Cody Watson, Robin Smith, Lee Banzet and Turner had four apiece.

The Cats wrapped up 5th place Saturday, Dec. 12, in the Circle Thunderbird Girls Classic by whipping the Independence junior varsity, 40-29, in the six-team round robin tournament.

Earlier in the week, Independence's varsity pounded Mulvane, 51-25, to move into the championship game.

"We played some of our best ball to date in those two games," noted Wolgast of the tournament games. "We moved well with the ball. We got good ball pressure and didn't allow the passes into the post. And the girls hustled. We simply played much better."

Wolgast said one of the reasons is that he went mostly with a zone defense. "I think the girls have more confidence in the zone and it also keeps our big people out of foul trouble," said the Cat coach. "I think the (man-to-man) experiment is over. We're going to stay with a zone."

In the 5th place game, Mills pumped in 13 points. Banzet scored eight points and reserve Gayle Samuelson had a fine game with six points.

Against Independence Thursday night, Dec. 10, Mills scored 12 points and Smith and Banzet had four apiece. It wasn't near enough as the Indy varsity, one of the top two or three rated teams in 4A in the state, blitzed the Cats with a first half run that ended with the Bulldogs on top, 33-12, by intermission.

Next stop for the Wildcat girls will be Tuesday night, Dec. 22, when Andale is in Mulvane for a game.

Circle Thunderbird Girls Round-Robin

FIFTH PLACE

Independence JV	8	4	5	12-29
Mulvane	14	9	6	11-40

Independence JV—Boring 7, Hackett 3, Springer 12, Yakshaw 5, Murphy 2. FG 11-35 (1), FT 6-20, F 16.

Mulvane—Sheila Mills 13, Lee Banzet 8, Cody Watson 3, Kristi McDowell 2, Stephanie Schultz 2, Gayle Samuelson 6, Robin Smith 4, Deva Lewis 2. FG 17-43 (0), FT 6-12, F 21.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Independence 62, Andover 43

THIRD PLACE

Arkansas City 49, Circle 46

SECOND ROUND

Mulvane	4	8	8	5-25
Independence	13	20	15	3-51

Mulvane—Cody Watson 2, Sheila Mills 12, Robin Smith 4, Kristi McDowell 1, Stephanie Schultz 2, Lee Banzet 4. FG 9-41 (0), FT 7-9, F 12.

Independence—Cunningham 11, Harris 2, Osborn 8, Sanborn 14, Olson 2, D. Osborn 2, Mitchell 5, Renfro 4. FG 22-58 (0), FT 7-12, F 12.

Arkansas City 44, Independence Jayvee 30