

Girls Second

Mulvane Gals

Miss Mark

Poor shooting doesn't work against anyone, let alone Rose Hill.

Coach Kelly Dennis' Mulvane High School Wildcat girls found that out Saturday night, Dec. 13, in the final round of the first Mulvane Early Season Girls Basketball Tournament held in the new MHS gym. The Cats sagged from the field and never made a serious run as Rose Hill walked off with the team championship, dumping the Cats, 43-31. It gave the Rockets three straight wins in the round-robin tournament.

"We just couldn't get anybody on track the whole game, and really the whole tournament," said Dennis, who has coached Mulvane to upset wins each of her first two years here. "Kassie Hargrove had a good shooting tournament and Melissa Buchanan had a really great tournament shooting the ball down low, but we never could get the rest of the team going on offense.

"Rose Hill is much more athletic than we are and I thought they really wore us down late in the game. We don't normally miss the front ends of five one-and-ones in a row. We did in this one and I thought that was big for us. I think we have people on the bench that we can eventually use but I don't think they are ready now. That lack of depth kind of helped wear us down."

Mulvane and the Rockets were battling most of the way until back-to-back three-pointers opened a double-digit lead for Rose Hill in the third quarter that the MHS girls couldn't overcome. "We never made a move in the second half," said Dennis. "We hung with them for a while by playing what I thought was a smarter game but those two threes really hurt because we weren't putting that many points on the board."

Then in the last quarter, Mulvane's runs were always short-circuited by missed free throws. Mulvane missed out on a possible 10 points by missing the front end five times. "For us to win, we'll have to make our free throws, that's all there is to it,"

emphasized Dennis. "That's too bad because I thought we played one of our smartest games."

The sophomore Hargrove finished with 14 points against the Rockets and was the only Cat in double figures. Guard Michelle Fowler and Shelley Richards had five points each and senior center Melissa Buchanan scored four points, her lowest total of the meet.

The Wildcat girls started their own tournament Thursday night, Dec. 11, by blasting off in the last quarter against Oxford in a 54-46 victory, then Mulvane nipped Douglass, 38-37, the next evening to set the stage for a victory parade. Instead, it was the Rockets with the trophy by going 3-0 in the new tournament.

Against Douglass, Hargrove dumped in 13 points, Buchanan had 10, Lindsay Kendrick had five points and Richards finished with four.

"The only reason we beat Douglass is that we made our free throws," said Dennis. "We had trouble scoring in this game, too, but we got it down at the end." Neither team scored in the last minute, so a three-pointer by Hargrove coming out of a time out was the difference.

The Wildcats came on in a hurry in the final quarter to pull away from Oxford. The Cats out-scored Oxford, 15-1, in the final period. "Oxford really out-played us the whole ball game," admitted Dennis. "Their big girl got into foul trouble late in the game and Melissa really took it to her. If anybody stepped up and filled the void for us it was Melissa.

"And our defense was just great against Oxford. We're a team that has to hit on all cylinders to win. That's just how we're going to be this year. I think our best basketball is yet to come."

Hargrove and Buchanan formed a potent punch for Mulvane, scoring 17 and 16 points, respectively. Richards had 11 and both Fowler and Kendrick had five-point games.

The next game for the Cats will be when Kingman comes to town Friday night, Dec. 19, for a big Chisholm Trail League contest.

Mulvane Girls

Early Season Tournament

THIRD ROUND

Rose Hill 6 15 14 8-43
Mulvane 7 9 11 4-31

Rose Hill—Summer Peerson 6, Brandi Erdman 19, Katie Woodrow 4, Katie Schofield 4, Chealea Stancoff 6, Martha Randall 4. FG 18 (3), FT 4-10, F 16.

Mulvane—Melissa Buchanan 4, Shelley Richards 5, Kassie Hargrove 14, Lindsay Kendrick 2, Michelle Fowler 5, Jackie McColpin 1. FG 11 (4), FT 5-12, F 9.

Douglass 43, Oxford 31

SECOND ROUND

Douglass 7 11 12 7-37
Mulvane 13 9 7 9-38

Douglass—Krista Keller 5, Amy Woydziak 7, April Cummins 10, Valerie Bybee 2, Michelle Cummins 9, Jenny Otto 4. FG 12 (1), FT 12-26, F 19.

Mulvane—Melissa Buchanan 10, Kristin Buchanan 2, Kassie Hargrove 13, Shelley Richards 4, Michelle Fowler 3, Lindsay Kendrick 5, Jana Smith 1. FG 13 (3), FT 9-17, F 25.

Rose Hill 49, Oxford 38

FIRST ROUND

Oxford 17 12 16 1-46
Mulvane 11 12 16 15-54

Oxford—Trisha Skibbe 13, Laci Houk 7, Amanda Olmsted 0, Crystal Hiltzman 21, Mandi Wiseman 5. FG 17 (3), FT 9-22, F 16.

Mulvane—Kassie Hargrove 17, Melissa Buchanan 16, Shelley Richards 11, Michelle Fowler 5, Lindsay Kendrick 5, Kristin Buchanan 1.

Rose Hill 51, Douglass 37