

Girls Dump Douglass

Miller Measures Success

Jayson Miller wants to get to the place where he can point the direction and the Mulvane High School girls will take off in that direction.

It isn't happening now but the Wildcats are heading in that direction, according to Miller. That's his assessment coming out of a 1-2 finish Saturday night, Dec. 13, in the Mulvane Early Season Girls Basketball Tournament at the MHS gym.

Playing in the round-robin tournament were Andale, Rose Hill, Douglass and the Cats. Mulvane started the meet off with a 40-37 win over Douglass Tuesday night, Dec. 9, then battled Rose Hill down to the wire before falling, 49-41, Friday night, Dec. 12. In Saturday's finale, the Cats had another tight one before Andale pulled away in the final few minutes for a 49-33 triumph.

Rose Hill won the tournament by going 3-0.

What Miller was most impressed about was the way the Wildcat girls started playing after the opener. "Overall, I am pleased with the direction the girls are going," said Miller. "I know we went only 1-2 but we were playing harder. The girls were starting to play the style of basketball I think we should play to be more successful. We played better, we're getting better but we're not there yet."

And Miller is hoping the offense gets a little more consistent. "The people we kind of expected to score are inconsistent," said Miller. "We need to start getting a consistent scoring effort from Shayna (Duncan), Abby (Sorensen), Whitney (Becker) and Josey (Gosch). We're trying hard but I think the girls are starting to get the idea."

Mulvane's best game came against Rose Hill. "That was probably our best game of the year," said Miller. "We had a nightmare of a 3rd quarter but the rest of the time, we played a great game. The girls came out in the first half, did a nice job controlling the tempo and forcing them to play a half-court

Mulvane Early Season Girls Tournament

THIRD ROUND

Andale 11 10 15 13 49
 Mulvane 4 15 4 10 33
 Andale—Ashley Simon 7, Ali Steven 8, Hall Mobley 6, Jessica Martin 8, Jennifer Clupny 4, Amy Steven 2, Justine Prange 12, Gretchen Hein 2. FG 19 (3), FT 8-11, F 7.
 Mulvane—Lara Roberts 7, Josey Gosch 2, Shayna Duncan 13, Kayla Oblinger 2, Abby Sorensen 7, Stephame Tatum 2. FG 14 (3), FT 2-4, F 10.

Rose Hill 52, Douglass 33
 (Rose Hill went 3-0 and won the girls tournament championship)

SECOND ROUND

Rose Hill 4 12 12 21 49
 Mulvane 7 17 2 15 41
 Rose Hill—Jenny Barnes 17, Lucy Barnes 10, Kristen Ozburn 5, Tristan Smades 3, Katie Hoyt 14. FG 16 (0), FT 17-21, F 19.
 Mulvane—Kayla Oblinger 2, Abby Sorensen 13, Josey Gosch 10, Stephame Tatum 6, Shayna Duncan 4, Whitney Becker 6. FG 15 (3), FT 8-16, F 19.

Andale 74, Douglass 23

FIRST ROUND

Douglass 6 8 11 12-37
 Mulvane 11 6 12 11-40
 Douglass—Kelle Currie 6, Shelly Corbin 6, Whitney Coleman 15, Joyce Sanderson 6, Echo Wells 4. FG 15 (2), FT 5-13, F 18.
 Mulvane—Shayna Duncan 8, Josey Gosch 9, Stephame Tatum 3, Abby Sorensen 7, Kayla Oblinger 5, Whitney Becker 2, Tara Roberts 6. FG 13 (2), FT 12-21, F 15.

Rose Hill 44, Andale 41

game, which is what we wanted."

At the same time, the Cats had only four turnovers in the 1st two frames after averaging 24 turnovers in their earlier games. That helped contribute to the Wildcats holding a 24-16 lead after the first half of play.

"We seemed to be a little more confident on the floor than in our earlier games," commented Miller. "The girls were more aggressive defensively. That's something we are trying to get them to buy into. After Tuesday night's opening game, we sat the

whole team down and watched film of that game and talked about how unaggressive we were on defense and everybody noticed it. The girls looked like they were playing hard but not with a purpose and I think everybody picked up on that fact. I'm hoping it made an impact."

What everybody noticed was that the MHS girls weren't getting into the passing lanes, weren't putting enough pressure on the the ball and weren't helping enough on the backside of the defense.

It seemed to help against the Rockets. But then, they had to play the 3rd quarter.

"We just didn't play our game like we did in the first half," said Miller. "And they started beating us up on the boards and got right back in the ball game."

Free throwing was crucial for the Rockets. They hit 17 of 21 in the game (including 11 of 13 in the 4th quarter) and that counted big-time in the final moments as Mulvane was trying in vain to hang with RH. Rose Hill regained the lead by out-scoring the Cats, 12-2, in the 3rd period.

"We calmed back down in the 4th quarter but the damage was done," said Miller. They had nine offensive rebounds in the 3rd quarter alone and finished with 16 for the game, which is a ton. We just gave them too many easy shots off offensive rebounds."

Guard Abby Sorensen led the team with 13 points and Gosch finished with 10. Stephanie Tatum and Becker finished with six points apiece and last year's No. 1 scorer, Shayna Duncan, finished with four points.

The Wildcats continued playing good basketball the next night against Andale. At intermission, the Indians held a two-point lead, 21-19, but another poor 3rd quarter put the Cats on the run. Andale out-scored Mulvane, 15-4, in the 3rd quarter to open up a nice lead that Mulvane couldn't melt away.

"We didn't take care of the ball quite as good against Andale as we did against Rose Hill," said Miller. "We had 19 turnovers,

which hurt us, and we continued to get beat on the boards.

"Really the turnovers were very frustrating right now," added Miller. "When we've been pressed, we're doing a good job of breaking it, so our turnovers are more unforced errors, things like poor passes or dragging a pivot foot. They got a six-point run on us right out of the dressing room and it seemed to stay right at the eight-point level until the final two minutes."

Duncan came alive against the Indians. She scored a team-high 13 points, and Tara Roberts and Sorensen finished with seven points each.

In the first round game against Douglass, the Wildcat played, no doubt, their worst game of the tournament. "We just seemed to do whatever we needed to stay ahead," lamented Miller. "We were sloppy and we didn't do anything special to separate us from them."

Mulvane jumped out to an 11-6 lead in the first half and were ahead the whole game until the Bulldogs put together a little spurt in the 4th quarter to take a small lead. "What I was most proud of is that our girls came back and regained the lead," said Miller. "It was bad enough that we led all the way then found ourselves behind at the end. The girls didn't hit the panic button. I thought they showed a lot of poise to come back and win the game."

The Wildcat girls regained the momentum by turning up the heat on defense and working the ball inside. Gosch and Duncan did the rest, hitting some big baskets.

Gosch finished with nine points and Duncan had eight. Sorensen scored seven, Roberts had six and Kayla Oblinger finished with five.

The Cats will be at home Friday night, Dec. 19, for their first Chisholm Trail League test against the Augusta Orioles. It also will be the last game before the Christmas Break.



Sophomore Tara Roberts (50) drives the lane in a tournament game

Cat Guard Only MHS 'Team' Member

The Mulvane High School girls finished 1-2 in the Mulvane Early Season Girls Tournament that ended Saturday, Dec. 13, but that didn't stop junior guard Abby Sorensen from being named to the all tournament team.

The "team" was announced following the conclusion of the round-robin tournament Saturday night at the Mulvane High School gym.

Sorensen scored 27 points to lift the Wildcat offense.

Other members of the all tournament team included top scorer Katie Hoyt (46 points) of Rose Hill, Ali Steven (45) of Andale, Jessica Martin of Andale, Jenny Barnes of Rose Hill and Erica Rothweiler of Rose Hill.

The Rockets swept to the tournament championship without losing a game.