

# Wildcat BB Girls Start League With 'Ugly Win' At Towanda

Is there such a thing as an "ugly win?" If there was, the Mulvane High School girls had it Tuesday night, Dec. 17, when they opened the 1996 Chisholm Trail League basketball season at Circle.

It was ugly and beautiful, all in the same gaze. The Wildcats upset the Thunderbirds in double overtime, 58-54.

"It's important that we came out and won our first league game, but we played probably the worst game that I've coached here. We won, so everybody's happy. Hopefully, the next time we play them, we can come out and play much better."

Dennis said the Wildcats, who are now 2-2 for the season and 1-0 in the league, prevailed despite a "ton of turnovers."

"They played a zone but we still threw the ball away just trying to go around the perimeter," said Dennis. "Luckily, they had a ton of turnovers, too. I don't know how we won. The real difference is that we shot well at the free throw line and in overtime, we connected really well. We hit 7-for-8 in overtime and that was obviously a key."

The Cats also cashed in with big Dannelle Hughes inside late in the game and overtime. "She came alive just in time," said Dennis. "She got hot in the fourth quarter (with nine points) and had six more in overtime. That was big."

Hughes finished with 18 points and tied for team laurels with guard Lindsay Kendrick, who also scored 18. Crissy Carpenter had 10 points and Melissa Buchanan scored six more.

Circle won the junior varsity game Tuesday night, rolling to a 50-32 winner. Freshman Kassie Hargrove led the Mulvane scoring with 10 points. Ashley McCoskey and Shelley Richards scored six apiece and Holly Baker counted in four.

It was the best of times and the worst of

times. The Thunderbird Girls Classic last week at Circle High provided the Mulvane High School girls cagers with both.

Mulvane won its first game of the season but had to settle for sixth place Saturday, Dec. 14, by losing a 50-43 tilt to Andover in the 5th place game.

A night earlier, the Wildcat girls had slithered past Chanute, 53-51, in a thriller to get into the 5th place contest. Andover had dropped Independence, 40-35, to advance.

"I thought we played really well at times...and really poorly at other times," said Wildcat coach Kelly Dennis about her club's schizophrenic tendencies. "We did some good things during the tournament that were outstanding. Then, we would do some things that reminded me of last year. In every game we played, though, we had two quarters that were pretty good. Against Chanute, we pulled it out. Against Andover, we didn't."

Dennis isn't sure what to think about the up and down performances. "Maybe these girls can't be emotional for a whole game," mused Dennis. "I don't know. I'm not sure the girls can concentrate for 32 minutes. It seems like we always have two or three minutes where we have a letdown and with our offense, it's hard for us to make it back up."

Mulvane was ahead, 13-9, in the first quarter but lost it in the second half as the Trojans out-scored the Cats, 28-19. "I was really pretty pleased with the way we played," said Dennis. "The only times we trailed were the first few minutes and the last few minutes. The rest of the time, we were ahead of them. One thing that hurt us was their collapsing

zone around Dannelle (Hughes). We weren't able to get her the ball inside. As the clock wore down, we got tighter and tighter because our outside shots weren't falling. We really depend on those points in the paint and we weren't getting them."

The only field points for Mulvane in the last quarter were three-pointers by sophomore Lindsay Kendrick and Michelle Fowler. "We need to have some others step up when they collapse on the middle (and on Hughes)," pointed out Dennis. "The girls get hesitant and don't seem to know where to go with the ball. When that happened, we should have made Andover pay but we didn't."

Instead, the Trojans cashed in.

Kendrick finished with a team-high 13 points, tying the senior Hughes for high-point honors. Melissa Buchanan tossed in eight points and Fowler scored three.

The Chanute game was a good one for the MHS gals. Mulvane controlled the first half, gaining a 13-point lead by intermission but the Blue Comets struck back in the second half to make a game of it.

Carpenter had her career-best offensive

game, scoring 19 points. Hughes capped a 10-point game and Kendrick scored nine. Fowler scored five points and both Shelley Richards and Carrie Burkhart tossed in four points.

"We really dominated the game more than the score indicates," said Dennis. "They went into a zone and it almost slipped away again. Lindsay hit a big, big 'three' in the last couple of minutes that put us up by four and proved to be the biggest points of the contest for us."

Dennis feels the Cats are playing with an attitude this year. She likes it, too. "The girls are playing with different attitude this year," admitted the MHS coach. "They're going out there with the feeling that they can win every game. Even in the games we have lost, I think we've given the other teams everything they wanted. We've played them tough."

The Wildcats will play their final game prior to the Christmas break Friday night, Dec. 20, when they travel to Kingman. The game originally was to have been played in Mulvane but a last-minute switch resulted, putting the Cats on the road in all their games in December.

## Circle Thunderbird Classic Girls Results

### FIFTH PLACE

Andover 9 13 12 16-50  
Mulvane 13 11 8 11-43  
Andover—Alyssa Thurman 2, Trisha Kincaid 14,  
Michelle Gorrell 2, Cassie Blair 18, Ashley Thurman 2,  
Brecana Chapman 8, Angela O'Malley 2.  
Mulvane—Lindsay Kendrick 13, Crissy Carpenter 2,  
Michelle Fowler 3, Melissa Buchanan 8, Dannelle  
Hughes 13.

### FIRST PLACE

Goddard 55, El Dorado 52

### THIRD PLACE

Arkansas City 32, Circle 28

### SEVENTH PLACE

Chanute 44, Independence 27

### SEMIFINALS

Chanute 11 9 18 13-51  
Mulvane 15 18 14 6-53  
Chanute—Robbin Childers 10, Jennifer Strain 5,  
Amber Foster 19, Kellie Wolfe 2, Kristin Vietti 4,  
Melanie Disbrow 3, Cara Wilson 8. FG 21 (3) FT 6-16,  
F 18.  
Mulvane—Crissy Carpenter 19, Melissa Buchanan 2,  
Dannelle Hughes 10, Lindsay Kendrick 9, Carrie  
Burkhart 4, Michelle Fowler 5, Shelley Richards 4. FG  
19 (3), FT 12-19, F 17.

Andover 40, Independence 35  
Goddard 36, Arkansas City 19  
El Dorado 53, Circle 41

### Regular Season

Mulvane 11 4 8 17 (9) (9)--58  
Circle 9 16 4 12 (9) (5)--54  
Mulvane—Michelle Fowler 5, Carrie Burkhart 1,  
Crissy Carpenter 10, Lindsay Kendrick 18, Dannelle  
Hughes 18, Melissa Buchanan 6. FG 15 (4), FT 16-24, F  
29.  
Circle—Danielle Hecker 7, Anna Short 2, Allison  
Berry 2, Jessica Ammerman 4, Kristy Hodgson 10, Mica  
Hammer 4, Gina Hall 12, Erica Collins 15. FG 20 (0),  
FT 14-33, F 21.

### Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane 1 10 8 15-32  
Circle 11 19 9 11-50  
Mulvane—Kassie Hargrove 10, Ashley McCoskey 6,  
Shelley Richards 6, Holly Baker 4, Rachel Rose 2,  
Kristin Buchanan 2, Kristal LaPlant 2, Heather Williams  
2. FG 14 (0), FT 1-2, F 14.  
Circle—Danielle Hecker 11, S. Smithson 12, M.  
Smithson 2, Anna Short 2, Allison Berry 2, Jessica  
Ammerman 8, Pursell 2, Gina Hall 5, Pond 11. FG 23  
(1), FT 6-12, F 6.



Cats' Melissa Buchanan (40) and Crissy Carpenter (21) sandwich Andover rebounder