

Girls: No

Easy Way

Who wants to do it the easy way? Not Coach Jayson Miller's MHS girls, that's for sure.

"This team doesn't seem to want to do anything easy," suggested the 5th year coach. "We started down, 15-1, brought it back to four (17-13), then Clearwater blew it back out to 15, before we closed it back to four before we had to start fouling in the final minutes."

That's a synopsis of the Mulyane girls' home opening basketball game Tuesday night, Dec. 17, against Clearwater. The Indians eventually prevailed, 52-44, in a game of strange runs.

"We did a lot of good things to get back the ball game, then we would turn around and shoot ourselves in the foot," said Miller. "I was encouraged, though, by how hard the girls played. They played a lot harder than they did last week in the Andale tournament. It's just frustrating for us because we're trying hard to become a good defensive team."

The loss dropped the Mulyane girls to 1-1 but they could have just as easily been 4-1. "We just need to clean up some things on defense," said Miller. "It's the little things that are keeping us from a good year and we started to recognize that."

Guard Melissa Doerfer and Shayna Duncan again led the scoring for the Cats. Doerfer scored 12 points and Duncan had 11. Abby Sorensen scored nine and Kayla Oblinger had six.

Mulyane's struggles in the Andale Arrowhead Shootout didn't last 12 quarters. Those struggles only went 10 but those last two quarters were humdingers for the Mulyane High School girls.

For two quarters Saturday afternoon, Dec. 14, the Wildcat girls played basketball, and it was enough to lift Coach Jayson Miller's Cats to their first victory of the season. They came from 14 points down to lodge a 53-48 win over Douglass in third round action. A day earlier, the Wildcats were dropped by Rose Hill, 40-38, after leading the Rockets most of the first three quarters.

The Wildcats had opened the Shootout

Tuesday night, Dec. 10, against the host Indians and were pounded by a 69-36 score.

For more than two quarters, Douglass had the Wildcats tied up. In fact, they Bulldogs dropped in a three-pointer on the first play after intermission to take a 31-17 lead but it was Douglass' last hurrah. Mulyane went on a 16-3 tear to get back in the game. And they followed that up with a strong 4th quarter to put the Bulldogs away.

"That last game was kind of a game of two halves," said Miller. "We didn't play well in the first half and dug ourselves quite a big hole, but it wasn't too big because we came back with two nice runs, and we also shot well at the free throw line to win it. I'd pretty much take that any time."

The Cats actually made 18 of 23 free throws, which was the difference in the game. Another difference was the hustling, harassing play of sophomore guard Abby Sorensen, whose defense turned the game and the momentum around in the 3rd quarter.

"We came out with much more intensity in the 3rd quarter," said Miller. "I thought the girls were pretty picked up, pretty intense that very first time down the floor, then Douglass got that three pointer to extend their lead to 14 points. I was extremely proud of the girls for not letting that get them down. We came right back, battling them and played even better defense, and finally we started hitting our shots."

As it turned out, the game was Mulyane's best balanced offensive in several years. Four players were in double figures with senior Melissa Doerfer shooting in 14 points, Shayna Duncan scoring 13 in the paint and both Sorensen and Tara Roberts scoring 10.

Against Rose Hill, the Wildcats had an offensive identity crisis, they didn't know you were supposed to put the ball in the basket. Only three players scored for Miller's troops. Duncan scored a career high 20 points, Sorensen had 12 and Doerfer finished with six.

"It was a pretty disappointing loss because I didn't feel like we played our best game," admitted Miller. "We had some shining moments. One of them was Shayna getting her career high, but Rose Hill just had a hard time containing her inside."

But you can't win games with only three people scoring. It makes it too easy to defend you. We have to have more people stepping up and hitting their shots. We struggled often with that. There was just no consistency. For us right now, though, it is from quarter to quarter when it comes to our consistency level.

Even with that problem, the Cats were giving the Rockets all they wanted despite having 24 turnovers in the game. Rose Hill also had a bunch.

"I think they had 23 turnovers but many of those came early," said Miller. "A lot of ours came late and that was the difference. Many of them didn't come from ball pressure, they came from just making poor decisions."

Mulyane started the tourney Tuesday night against Andale and the Indians had no trouble putting the Cats on their heels quickly, shooting out to a 17-9 lead after one quarter and stretching that to 33-22 by halftime.

"We were just out matched in that one, they took it to us," stressed Miller. "Andale is at a much higher level than the other teams in the tournament. They have an excellent program and they're tough to defend because they move the ball so well."

The Cat girls have one more game before the Christmas break. They will go to Augusta to battle with the Orioles Friday night, Dec. 20.

Varsity Girls

Clearwater	52	Mulyane	44
Clearwater	17	Mulyane	15
Clearwater	13	Mulyane	17
Clearwater	15	Mulyane	4
Melissa Doerfer 12	Kayla Oblinger 6	Shayna Duncan 11	Abby Sorensen 9
Karla Oblinger 9	Stephanie Truitt 8	Tara Roberts 7	Ellen H. 6

Junior Varsity Girls

Melissa Doerfer 12	Karla Oblinger 9	Shayna Duncan 11	Abby Sorensen 9
Melissa Doerfer 12	Karla Oblinger 9	Shayna Duncan 11	Abby Sorensen 9
Melissa Doerfer 12	Karla Oblinger 9	Shayna Duncan 11	Abby Sorensen 9
Melissa Doerfer 12	Karla Oblinger 9	Shayna Duncan 11	Abby Sorensen 9

Andale Arrowhead Shootout

THIRD ROUND

Rose Hill girls	40	Mulyane girls	38
Rose Hill girls	14	Mulyane girls	10
Rose Hill girls	15	Mulyane girls	12
Rose Hill girls	16	Mulyane girls	11
Rose Hill girls	17	Mulyane girls	10
Rose Hill girls	18	Mulyane girls	9
Rose Hill girls	19	Mulyane girls	8
Rose Hill girls	20	Mulyane girls	7
Rose Hill girls	21	Mulyane girls	6
Rose Hill girls	22	Mulyane girls	5
Rose Hill girls	23	Mulyane girls	4
Rose Hill girls	24	Mulyane girls	3
Rose Hill girls	25	Mulyane girls	2
Rose Hill girls	26	Mulyane girls	1

SECOND ROUND

Rose Hill girls	33	Mulyane girls	22
Rose Hill girls	17	Mulyane girls	9
Rose Hill girls	18	Mulyane girls	10
Rose Hill girls	19	Mulyane girls	11
Rose Hill girls	20	Mulyane girls	12
Rose Hill girls	21	Mulyane girls	13
Rose Hill girls	22	Mulyane girls	14
Rose Hill girls	23	Mulyane girls	15
Rose Hill girls	24	Mulyane girls	16
Rose Hill girls	25	Mulyane girls	17
Rose Hill girls	26	Mulyane girls	18
Rose Hill girls	27	Mulyane girls	19
Rose Hill girls	28	Mulyane girls	20
Rose Hill girls	29	Mulyane girls	21
Rose Hill girls	30	Mulyane girls	22
Rose Hill girls	31	Mulyane girls	23
Rose Hill girls	32	Mulyane girls	24
Rose Hill girls	33	Mulyane girls	25
Rose Hill girls	34	Mulyane girls	26
Rose Hill girls	35	Mulyane girls	27
Rose Hill girls	36	Mulyane girls	28
Rose Hill girls	37	Mulyane girls	29
Rose Hill girls	38	Mulyane girls	30
Rose Hill girls	39	Mulyane girls	31
Rose Hill girls	40	Mulyane girls	32

Andale 62 Douglass 33