

Stanhope splits with Prattville

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Stanhope's Raven Russell continues to play well and led the Lady Mustangs in scoring with 22 points against Prattville.

Photo: Art Parker

By ART PARKER

The Lady Mustangs extended their four game winning streak and remain undefeated in the 2013-14 basketball season with an impressive 79-50 victory over Prattville last Friday night. After leading 50-36 at the end of the third period, the Lady Mustangs made four consecutive free throws, a pair courtesy of a Prattville technical foul, to take a 54-38 lead.

The early fourth quarter free throws were typical of the entire game and season. The Lady Mustangs have become highly proficient from the charity stripe sinking an unusually high percentage of free throws. "That was a priority for this season. It was our Achilles' last year," Mustangs coach Kelvin Stokes said. "It was a priority this summer to improve our free throw shooting and it has paid off." Most all of the team has returned and the Lady Mustangs now have the benefit of senior leadership. "We are bigger, faster and stronger. And, I think we are a

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lot smarter too," Stokes said. The Lady Mustangs were 14-12 last year.

Raven Russell led Stanhope Elmore with 22 points followed by Moody Dejarnette with 18 points.



Photo: Stanhope's E. J. Lane moves into the paint and tries attempts a hook shot in the first quarter of the game against the Lions.

Photo: Art Parker

The Stanhope Elmore boys basketball team lost a heartbreaker to Prattville. The Mustangs trailed by 23 points at halftime, rallied in the second half to tie the game and move into overtime. Unfortunately, the Mustangs could not sustain the momentum and lost 61-54. Jayrus Wilson led the Mustangs with 37 points. Wilson is averaging 30 points per game. The Mustangs are 1-3 for the season but are vastly improved team over last year. "We are far more team oriented than last year. Our defense is considerably better," said Mustangs coach Anthony Kummel. "The biggest difference is our young players. They are maturing and coming around and playing much better basketball."