

Cats Can't Cope With Crusaders

After a game like this, it's probably good to get 10 days off.

The Mulvane High School girls' basketball team's tough January stretch continued at Buhler Tuesday night, Jan. 9, where the 'Cats ran into a wall, falling to the host Crusaders, 74-22. The Wildcats fell to 0-5 in AVCTL Division III, 1-7 overall.

"They're probably the most athletic team we've faced so far," said MHS head coach Dale Landes. "We just couldn't handle their athleticism. We couldn't get into any kind of flow offensively, either in half-court or in transition. Our transition defense also allowed too many easy baskets. They're a very savvy team, and they exploited our weaknesses. All you can do is try to learn from a loss like this."

The Crusaders jumped on the Wildcats early and often, taking a 19-3 lead after one quarter of play. By the end of the first half, Buhler had opened up a 41-11 lead. Things didn't get any better for the 'Cats in the second half, as Buhler extended the lead to 61-15 by the end of the third quarter.

Seven players scored for the Wildcats. Mulvane got six points each from Courtney Becker and Kelcey Sharpe, four from Melinda McKee, two each from Taylor Parsons and Maddie Wise, and one each from Stephanie Wilson and Kaitlin

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	3	8	4	7-22
Buhler	19	22	20	13-14

Mulvane—Stephanie Wilson 1, Maddie Wise 2, Courtney Becker 4, Taylor Parsons 2, Melinda McKee 4, Kelcey Sharpe 6, Kaitlin Lantzath 1. PG 9 (5), FT 4-4.

Buhler—Brittany Hines 16, Heidi 2, Jones 9, Ranz 8, Tynan Honn 10, Cally Bridgman 9, Shawna Cikanek 11, Princess 6, Barber 3. PG 32 (3), FT 7-17.

Lantzath. Buhler had three players in double figures. Brittany Hines led all scorers with 16 points, Shawna Cikanek had 11, and Tynan Honn added 10.

The Wildcats have been trying to make good use of their extended break between games. "We've spent the past week getting back to basics in practice," said Landes. "Our girls are still learning how to win and how to be successful. Losing does get old, but it also forces you to get better. Our girls come to practice every day wanting to get better, and that's what makes me proud of this team. They never hang their heads, and they never give up. This is a learning process for everybody involved."

After a 10-day rest, the Wildcats will travel to Andale for a non-league contest Friday night, Jan. 19. The varsity game is scheduled to get underway at 7:30 p.m. The Mulvane Lady Wildcat Classic begins next Monday, Jan. 22. Tournament pairings and schedules can be found elsewhere on this page.