

Crusaders Stop Wildcats' Drive For League Title

Any chances of a share of the league title for the Mulvane girls' basketball team were swept away at Buhler Tuesday night, Feb. 21.

The Wildcats had beaten Buhler at home last month, 59-46, but they couldn't duplicate that success on the road, falling to the host Crusaders, 63-54. The Wildcats slipped to 6-3 in AVCTL Division III, tied for second with Buhler, and 11-8 overall.

Mulvane made two more field goals than Buhler, but the Crusaders won the game at the free-throw line, making 19 of 29 attempts. The Wildcats had only 10 attempts, making six.

Leading the Wildcats in scoring were the senior duo of Laura Buchanan and Tara Roberts. Buchanan scored a career-high 22 points while Roberts made three three-pointers and finished with 17 points. Mulvane also got six points from Josey Gosch, four from Megan Turner, three from Caitlin Wise, and two from Maddie Wise.

The Wildcats played their final home game Friday night, Feb. 17, against Augusta on Senior Parents' night, and Mulvane's seniors came through, one of which successfully played "Beat The Clock".

Gosch's three-point play with 1.1 seconds remaining gave Mulvane a thrilling 39-37 win over Augusta. It was a complete turnaround from their first meeting this season, a 60-28 Mulvane loss at Augusta Jan. 6.

"It's obviously a big league win for us," said MHS head coach Dale Landes. "Neither team scored for the first four minutes of the game, and neither team led by more than six points the entire game. It was a real defensive struggle. We set the tone with our defense, we forced them to shoot a lot of three-pointers, and we limited their second chances."

The Orioles took an early 9-6 lead after one quarter, but the 'Cats charged back, outscoring Augusta 12-5 in the second quarter for an 18-15 halftime lead. Augusta answered in the third quarter with a 10-5 advantage, taking the lead back after three quarters, 25-23.

Late in the game, Mulvane was leading 36-34 with the clock ticking down, until

Augusta's Julie Stephenson made a three-pointer with 9.7 seconds left. On the following Mulvane possession, Maddie Wise brought the ball upcourt quickly and eventually found Gosch open on the right side. Gosch drove and got off a shot, which fell through with 1.1 seconds left, and she was fouled. Gosch made the free throw, and a final Augusta heave at the buzzer fell short.

Just the way it was drawn up, sort of. "We had it set for Maddie to drive and kick it out to either Tara trailing or Laura in the post," said Landes. "The defense forced Maddie to change direction, and she made a cross-court pass to our trailer, who happened to be Josey. She took it to the basket aggressively, and she made the shot, so everything turned out all right."

It was Mulvane's third nail-biter in four games, all coming at home. Three days before the Augusta game, the 'Cats pulled out a 45-44 overtime win at home against Wellington. One week before that, Mulvane lost a 43-42 home game to Kingman. "We're getting used to playing in pressure situations," said Landes. "Chances are, we may see Augusta again in the sub-state. This win gives our team the confidence to know that they can compete with teams like Augusta."

All but one point for Mulvane came from their seniors. The 'Cats got 14 points from

Roberts, 13 from Buchanan, seven from Gosch, two each from Turner and Kristi Parker, and one from Maddie Wise. Mulvane's seniors and their parents were recognized in a ceremony between the girls' and boys' games. Roberts, Buchanan, Gosch, Parker, and Turner are Mulvane's seniors this season.

The Mulvane junior varsity lost a close game against Augusta, 28-24. The Wildcats made just four shots from the field, but stayed in the game by going 15-for-26 from the line to Augusta's 3-for-10. Mulvane got seven points from Amanda Hagerman, five from Caitlin Wise, four each from Emily Stahl and Jordan Martin, and two each from Melinda McKee and Lexi Linnebur.

The Wildcat jayvees also won at home over Wellington Tuesday, Feb. 14, by the score of 39-17. The 'Cats held Wellington to just six field goals for the game. Mulvane got eight points from Emily Stahl, six each from Amanda Hagerman and Jordan Martin, five from Stephanie Boal, four each from Lexi Linnebur, Kristen Lervik, and Jessica Greinacher, and two from Melinda McKee.

The Wildcats will finish their regular season at Rose Hill tonight (Feb. 23), starting at 6 p.m. Class 4A sub-state play begins Monday, Feb. 27. Pairings and schedules can be found elsewhere on this page.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	13	13	13	15-54
Buhler	19	13	14	17-63

Mulvane—Maddie Wise 2, Megan Turner 4, Caitlin Wise 3, Laura Buchanan 22, Josey Gosch 6, Tara Roberts 17. FG 22 (4), FT 6-10.

Buhler—Brittany Hines 24, Tara Wiens 15, Cassie Barber 7, Kayla Jones 7, Stephanie Franz 2, Shawna Cikanek 4, Tanya Friesen 4. FG 20 (4), FT 19-29.

Augusta 9 5 10 13-37

Mulvane 6 12 5 16-39

Augusta—Jenny Hromek 3, Sarah Waldorf 9, Brooke Burns 2, Rainey Nickel 10, Katy Little 3, Julie Stephenson 10. FG 15 (6), FT 1-7.

Mulvane—Maddie Wise 1, Megan Turner 2, Laura Buchanan 13, Kristi Parker 2, Josey Gosch 7, Tara Roberts 14. FG 14 (4), FT 7-15.

Junior Varsity Girls

Augusta	13	2	4	9-28
Mulvane	4	5	8	7-24

Augusta—Myers 1, Meyer 2, Carman 3, Taylor 1, Farmer 6, Crawford 4, Christner 2, Schwemmer 2, Poore 5, Miller 2. FG 12 (1), FT 3-10.

Mulvane—Amanda Hagerman 7, Lexi Linnebur 2, Emily Stahl 4, Caitlin Wise 5, Jordan Martin 4, Melinda McKee 2. FG 4 (1), FT 15-26.

Wellington 2 3 6 6-17

Mulvane 9 5 10 15-39

Wellington—Craig 5, Tucker 2, Gonzales 8, Stone 2. FG 6 (1), FT 4-13.

Mulvane—Amanda Hagerman 6, Stephanie Boal 5, Lexi Linnebur 4, Emily Stahl 8, Kristen Lervik 4, Jordan Martin 6, Jessica Greinacher 4, Melinda McKee 2. FG 15 (0), FT 9-24.



Photo by Mike Mackay

Wildcat guard Maddie Wise (4) starts a drive to the basket against the Orioles