

Upset Buhler

Girls Start Fresh Year

Mulvane 54, Buhler 50. What's that all about?

The Mulvane High School girls, on the verge of "promising" all season long, finally got on path to fulfill their destiny when they held off Buhler, 54-50, in the next-to-last game of the regular season Tuesday evening in Mulvane.

It was the first Wildcat girls victory over Buhler since a 57-51 victory in February of the 1991-92 season. And if nothing else, it was a serious momentum-builder for Coach Dale Landes' Cats as they head into the last game of the regular season tonight (Feb. 24) at home against the Rose Hill Rockets.

"That's as good as we've played all season," testified Coach Dale Landes. "It was like all of a sudden, everything started to click. Obviously our free throw shooting was a problem which could have created a problem for us but it didn't.

"Our defensive decisions just started clicking. The girls were making the right defensive decisions out there. It was just a special moment where everything just came together."

And how!

The Wildcats made their statement in the 3rd quarter, taking the lead over the Crusaders for good. The Cats out-scored Buhler, 17-9, and built up a 10-point lead in the early moments of the 4th quarter before the Crusaders tried to come back.

"The second and third quarters were huge for us," said Coach Landes. "Buhler was shooting the ball poorly and we came out and hit some big baskets. Tara (Roberts) hit two big three-pointers in the 3rd quarter and Abby (Sorensen) and Whitney (Becker) hit two big baskets and so did Laura (Buchanan). That's how we built up about a 10-point cushion.

And for once, the MHS defense was up to the challenge. "Everything we had been working on came true," said Landes. Josey Gosch, Tasha Parman, Kristi Parker and Laura Buchanan all did a great job for our interior defense," said Landes. "Our biggest fear going in was that their big girl was going to be too athletic for us like she was in the 1st game, but those four inside players helped check her."

When Buhler hammered Mulvane, 58-40, early in January, Buhler's guards had a field day penetrating the Cat defense. "We didn't want to let that happen this time," said Landes. "We let their guards get to the rim too easily but this time, Abby, Megan (Turner) and Whitney all did a tremendous job. They made sure their guards didn't penetrate like they did the first game."

It wasn't over until the last minute of the game. The Crusaders came back to within two but the Wildcats staved off the comeback by changing defenses and making free throws in the clutch. Overall, the Mulvane girls were 10 out of 24 from the stripe. Buhler wasn't much better, going 14 out of 25.

But Sorensen canned one free throw and Becker made two to get the Cats back in control of things with a five-point lead. "We didn't shoot our free throws but we made the crucial ones down the stretch that were just real big," said Landes. "Hopefully, we're playing our best at the right time of year."

Mulvane will be going to the Wellington Class 4A Sub-State which starts next week. The first round games for girls will take place Tuesday night, March 1, at the site of the better-seeded teams. Mulvane will be the No. 7 seed and will play at Douglass.

The MHS girls bounced back to snap a two-game losing streak Friday night, Feb. 18, at Augusta, playing much better than they did against Wellington a few days earlier.

The Cats got off to a good start and held the lead much of the way in a 38-32 victory over the Orioles. And wasn't it just earlier this year that the Orioles blew out the Mulvane girls by a 49-28 count?

"It was a lot different this time, we played much better, I was really happy with our intensity," said Coach Landes. "I thought Kristi Parker's defense inside was big. Her size had an impact on any interior game that Augusta tried to play. She altered a number of shots."

And Landes also felt his troopers had an advantage inside offensively. With Parker, Josey Gosch and Laura Buchanan commanding the middle, Augusta had a hard time stopping Mulvane. Gosch, Parker and Buchanan scored four points each and their presence made it hard for Augusta to defense inside and outside. That helped Tara Roberts to a team-high 10 points. Whitney Becker scored six points, Abby Sorensen had five and Megan Turner also scored four.

"Offensively when we went inside, good things happened," said Landes. "They just gave us a solid edge both ways."

Mulvane's biggest problem in the first Augusta game was poor transition defense. "We allowed them to get a lot of baskets in transition because we didn't pick them up," said Landes. "They made a lot of easy baskets in transition. This time, we tried to get back quickly and to recognize where they were at and pick them up. That's in stark contrast to the January game where we were slow getting back on defense and didn't pay attention to where they were. We just did a lot better job of picking up their offense once they got past the half-court line."

Augusta also shot a poor percentage from the field—can that be traced back to not getting lay-ups in transition? "That's exactly right," said the Cat coach. "Friday night, we

Wellington Class 4A Sub-State Pairings

Monday, Feb. 28

FIRST ROUND-BOYS

No. 8 seeded Mulvane (1-18) at No. 1 Belle Plaine (17-1), 7 p.m.

No. 5 Wellington (7-12) at No. 4 Kingman (11-8), 7

No. 7 Clearwater (5-14) at No. 2 Andover Central (14-5), 7

No. 6 Douglass (6-13) at No. 3 Rose Hill (13-6), 7

Tuesday, March 1

FIRST ROUND-GIRLS

No. 8 seeded Belle Plaine (3-16) at No. 1 Douglass (14-5), 7

No. 5 Clearwater (8-11) at No. 4 Rose Hill (10-9), 7

No. 7 Mulvane (7-12) at No. 2 Andover Central (14-5), 7

No. 6 Wellington (8-11) at No. 3 Kingman (11-8), 7

Thursday, March 3

SEMIFINALS-BOYS

6 p.m. -- Belle Plaine-Mulvane winner vs. Kingman-Wellington winner

7:30 -- Andover Central-Clearwater winner vs. Rose Hill-Douglass winner

Friday, March 4

SEMIFINALS-GIRLS

6 p.m. -- Douglass-Belle Plaine winner vs. Rose Hill-Clearwater winner

7:30 -- Andover Central-Mulvane winner vs. Kingman-Wellington winner

Saturday, March 5

6 p.m. -- Girls Championship Game

7:30 -- Boys Championship Game

Mulvane Sports

Buhler 9 15 8 18-50

Mulvane 7 16 17 14-54

Buhler—Hines 5, Wiens 5, Faulkner 5, Bridges 3, Pankratz 4, Jones 2, Cameron 8, Kris Richman 13, Beardslee 5. FG 16 (4), FT 14-25, F 17.

Mulvane—Whitney Becker 9, Abby Sorensen 10, Tara Roberts 13, Josey Gosch 9, Laura Buchanan 12, Megan Turner 1. FG 16 (4), FT 10-24, F 21.

Mulvane 7 10 8 13-38

Augusta 6 5 10 11-32

Mulvane—Whitney Becker 6, Tara Roberts 10, Laura Buchanan 4, Abby Sorensen 5, Megan Turner 5, Kristi Parker 4, Tasha Parman 1, Josey Gosch 4. FG 14 (3), FT 7-17, F 16.

Augusta—Julie Stephenson 9, Hannah Garcia 2, Sarah Waldorf 3, Rainey Nickel 14, Katy Little 4. FG 10 (2), FT 10-16, F 18.

played a man-to-man defense most of the time against them and the girls took care of the person they were guarding."

It was also nice to have top defender Whitney Becker back after missing a game with an injury. "She gets the toughest offensive player on their team and even though Nickel had 14 points, I think she had to earn every one of those points," said Landes. "Whitney did a good job of keeping her out of the flow of the game."

The Orioles made a run at Mulvane in the last quarter, getting to within four points with about 1:30 left in the game but two buckets by Roberts and free throws by Turner and Becker helped stretch things out a bit.

The girls did a good job of using the clock down the stretch but we could have been in trouble because of our poor free throwing," said Landes. "Making shots at the free throw line would have really helped us pull away." Overall, the Cats were 7-for-17 but big charity tosses by Turner and Becker helped close the door on the last Oriole gasp.

The victory left Mulvane a 6-12 record. The girls have one regular season game left. That's tonight (Feb. 24) when Rose Hill comes to town. The Rocket girls have beaten Mulvane twice earlier but the last time in Rose Hill, it was a one-point game.

AVCT League

Girls Basketball Standings

DIVISION III

Team	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
El Dorado	8	1	13	6
Buhler	6	3	9	8
Wellington	4	5	8	11
Rose Hill	3	6	10	9
Augusta	3	6	8	11
Mulvane	3	6	7	12

DIVISION IV

Team	LEAGUE		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Circle	8	1	17	2
Kingman	7	2	11	8
Andover Central	5	4	14	5
Clearwater	4	5	8	11
Andale	3	6	7	12
Andover	1	8	2	17

Games Today (Feb. 24)

(Last games of the regular season)

Rose Hill at Mulvane

Wellington at Augusta

El Dorado at Buhler

Andover Central at Andover

Kingman at Andale

Clearwater at Circle