

Cat BB Girls Aim Higher

Jayson Miller hopes the parallels with last year's team stops. Now.

Last year, the Mulvane High School basketball girls lifted off with a 5-1 record. After that, it was a downhill slide the rest of the season, with the Cats finishing at 10-12 for the third straight season.

The Mulvane girls bombed Augusta by 20, 61-41, Saturday, Dec. 21, in the final game of the year 2001 to go 5-1 and Miller is anxious to prove Mulvane's no fluke. "We're definitely pleased at this point of the season," admitted Miller, "but honestly, I thought that's where we would be at. I think the second half of the season is what will put the label on this team. We're going to see quality teams the rest of the way."

Miller feels this is year presents the best opportunity to break out of the "10-12 blahs" by elevating the level of play. "The second half of the season starts now, and I know the girls want to get up there. (in the league standings) really badly. We have to try to build some momentum and see if we can do anything special. We want to beat some of the teams we haven't been able to beat in the past. The girls have the ability to do that but they have to perform at the top level."

Miller said the holiday workouts earlier this week have been productive. "We practiced Friday and Saturday and again on Monday morning," said Miller. "You have some time but not a whole lot to get a lot of new stuff in."

The game against Augusta was all Mulvane after the first quarter. The Cat girls out-scored Augusta, 18-4, in the second frame to take a 16-point halftime lead. "I thought we did a pretty good job offensively against Augusta, especially in the second quarter," noted Miller. "It was awesome. We really snuffed them out on defense and our offense got pretty hot. Sami (Booth), Kris (Lazar) and LaShelle (Parker) all got hot in that quarter and we started getting good inside looks which led to some easy attempts. That got our confidence going and we hit a couple outside jumpers because of it."

The MHS coach couldn't say the same for his team's defensive work, though. "I wasn't happy with us giving up 28 points to their post player," said Miller. "We needed to do a better job of recognition. You have to shut those kinds of shooters down when they get hot and we didn't."

Booth was Mulvane's top scorer against the Orioles with 13 points. Parker finished with 11 points and Lazar had 12. Nicole Hackley and Kim Mangus both came off the bench to pro-

duce seven points apiece and sophomore Shayna Duncan also had seven points.

The Cat junior varsity team couldn't hang onto a nice lead in the last quarter and lost a 40-34 game at Augusta. The Orioles out-scored Mulvane, 15-6, to come from behind in the final quarter.

Hackley had 13 points to carry the load for Mulvane's jayvees; Sara McKnight finished with 12 points and Rachel Edwards scored three points.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	15	18	13	14-61
Augusta	13	4	11	13-41
Mulvane—	Sami Booth 13, LaShelle Parker 11, Kris Lazar 12, Melissa Doerfer 2, Shayna Duncan 7, Kim Mangus 7, Nicole Hackley 7. FG 26 (1), FT 8-16, F 12.			
Augusta—	Brook Harrison 2, Cami Hahn 2, Heidi Dreiling 1, Ledgerwood 2, Aubrie Schwemmer 28, Critchfield 6. FG 18 (0), FT 5-13, F 11.			

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	12	14	12	6-34
Augusta	7	6	12	15-40
Mulvane—	Nicole Hackley 13, Kayla Linnebur 2, Abby Sorensen 2, Rachel Edwards 3, Sara McKnight 12, Lacie Leatherman 2. FG 14 (1), FT 3-4, F 17.			
Augusta—	Ta Mai-My 3, Stevenson 4, Ledgerson 6, Heather Rinckenbaugh 2, Usher 12, Loveless 6, Farmer 5, Garcia 2, Critchfield 2. FG 13 (0), FT 14-27, F 12.			