

Confidence For The Holidays!

A shot of confidence is just what the doctor ordered for the Mulvane High School girls, and that's exactly what they got to end the year 2000.

The Wildcat girls rang in the holiday season Dec. 22, by hammering Augusta, 43-33, in a game that was decided in the final half by a team that came together.

"The Augusta game was a good win for the girls because he will breed some confidence," said Coach Jayson Miller. "This is really just what we needed. The girls had some big moments but they didn't play that well in the first half until about three minutes left before halftime. I think we were down something like 17-6, but we made a big, big run. It was a great run to get back in the ball game."

It was actually a 10-1 spurt that shot the Cats full of confidence as they headed into the locker room.

"I thought it was the key point of the game because of what it did to our confidence going into the second half," said Miller. "We came out in the third quarter and really played well, then down the stretch, we hit some free throws to keep

Augusta at arm's length."

There has been a lot said about the MHS move into Division I in the Chisholm Trail League this year. Most of conversation has been that Mulvane should still be in Division II with the smaller schools in the CTL. After the Wildcats went to Valley Center in their 4th game of the season and came away with a spanking, it only seemed to feed that talk. That's one big reason the victory against the Orioles was a big one. Augusta is a Division I school.

Miller and the Wildcats will have none of that kind of talk. "I really feel like we belong in the division and the girls feel the same way," said Miller. "They want to engage those teams and see how they do but after the Valley Center thing, it's just a big boost to beat Augusta. I know it made the girls feel pretty good about getting the win. The talent level is there and I think, as do the girls, that we can compete with those teams. But we really needed to beat a bigger team. And going into the Christmas break, I think it was especially important because it gives the girls all that time off to think about it and savor the victory."

The Wildcats started their momentum swing by changing defenses, something Miller wasn't totally sure of being successful at. "We went into one of our zones and we started hitting some of the shots we were missing earlier," said Miller. "At the same time, the zone might have slowed their tempo down a little and taken them off their game. I really wasn't totally sure about it because we changed defenses at Valley Center and just the opposite happened. We were six down and changed to a zone and the next thing I knew, we were more than 12 down."

Junior Kris Lazar had one of her best games ever—"her best game," claimed Miller. "She came out and was playing pretty hard but couldn't get her shots to fall. After halftime, she got a couple of quick baskets and that really kind of lit her up and she took off. Her play really gave us a boost."

Lazar finished with a game-high 15 points. Center LaShelle Parker finished under her average with nine points. Sami Booth and guard Melissa Doerfer scored six points each and Kari Leonard and Jackie Burkhart finished off the scoring with four and three points, respectively.

Varsity Girls

Augusta	10	8	7	8—33
Mulvane	6	10	13	14—43
Augusta—Angela Harget 9, Erin Loewen 1, Jennifer Talon 7, Kira Kappelmann 11, Aubrie Schwemmer 2, Heidi Dreiling 1, Brooke Harrison 2. FG 13 (0), FT 7-14, F-19.				
Mulvane—Kris Lazar 15, LaShelle Parker 9, Sami Booth 6, Jackie Burkhart 3, Melissa Doerfer 6, Kari Leonard 4. FG 16 (0), FT 11-18, F 17.				

After a few days off to savor the feeling, Miller brought the team back together to start preparations for Andover, which will be coming to Mulvane Friday night, Jan. 5. The Trojans are 2-1 on the season.

"We started the Christmas break practices off by bringing all the freshmen up for three days of practices," said Miller. "I think it's good for the freshmen because they get to see first hand how physical some of the older girls can get with them. It's a good learning experience."

"Our last couple of practices have been pretty defensive-oriented," said Miller. "We haven't made a lot of major changes offensively. We've worked hard on our defense and we've tried to keep the practice really fundamental. Andover is a good team, I know that, so we'll have to be ready."