

One Step At A Time And Cat Girls Running

One step at a time is what Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller is aiming for and his Wildcat girls finally hit the bulls-eye Tuesday night, Jan. 11. In fact, it was more like the mother lode!

The Wildcats played their best ball of the year when talented Circle came to town for a Chisholm Trail League Division II game. The Thunderbirds were fresh from their most impressive showing of the year, dumping highly regarded Kingman. They left Mulvane wondering what hit them as the Cats played four solid quarters in a 47-42 victory.

The win elevated Coach Miller's expectations and gave the Cats hopes for a brighter day. The MHS girls improved to 2-1 in the league and 3-4 record overall with possibly the biggest win in Miller's two-year stint.

"It was a big win because they were coming off of beating Kingman Friday night and Kingman is one of the best if not the best team in the league," noted Miller. "It was big for our girls if they wanted to try and step up to the next level."

The Cats took charge in the last quarter as sophomore center LaShelle Parker kept banging 'em home under the basket, Natalie Turner hit a couple key free throws and Kim Mangus made a block on defense what kept the T-Birds from tying the score in the final minute.

"Those were all big plays," agreed Miller. "We had the lead but Circle took it back with a couple minutes to play but those three plays just turned the game around. Turner was 4-for-5 in the 4th quarter and LaShelle scored nine points to key a nice little run for us in the last two minutes. And they got the ball inside right under the bucket but Mangus made the block that kept them from tying the game and we came back down and took it inside for a four-point lead."

That was really the ball game as a Parker bucket with 35 seconds left put the Cats ahead 46-42. Parker finished with a game-high 18 points. Mangus finished with six and Turner and Kari Leonard scored six apiece. Arin Leonard had three points.

"It seemed like they were up the whole ball game but we made a nice run at the end to take it," said Miller. "We were taking care of the ball and sticking to our philosophy. We wanted to get the ball inside to LaShelle and she did a great job of finishing it up."

Miller's general game plan was to switch defenses on Circle and the plan seemed to keep the Thunderbird girls off-balance. "We did a lot of switching and we forced some turnovers because of it," said Miller. "We also cut down on the number of turnovers we had been having, too. We had scouted them against Kingman and thought we had

Varsity Girls

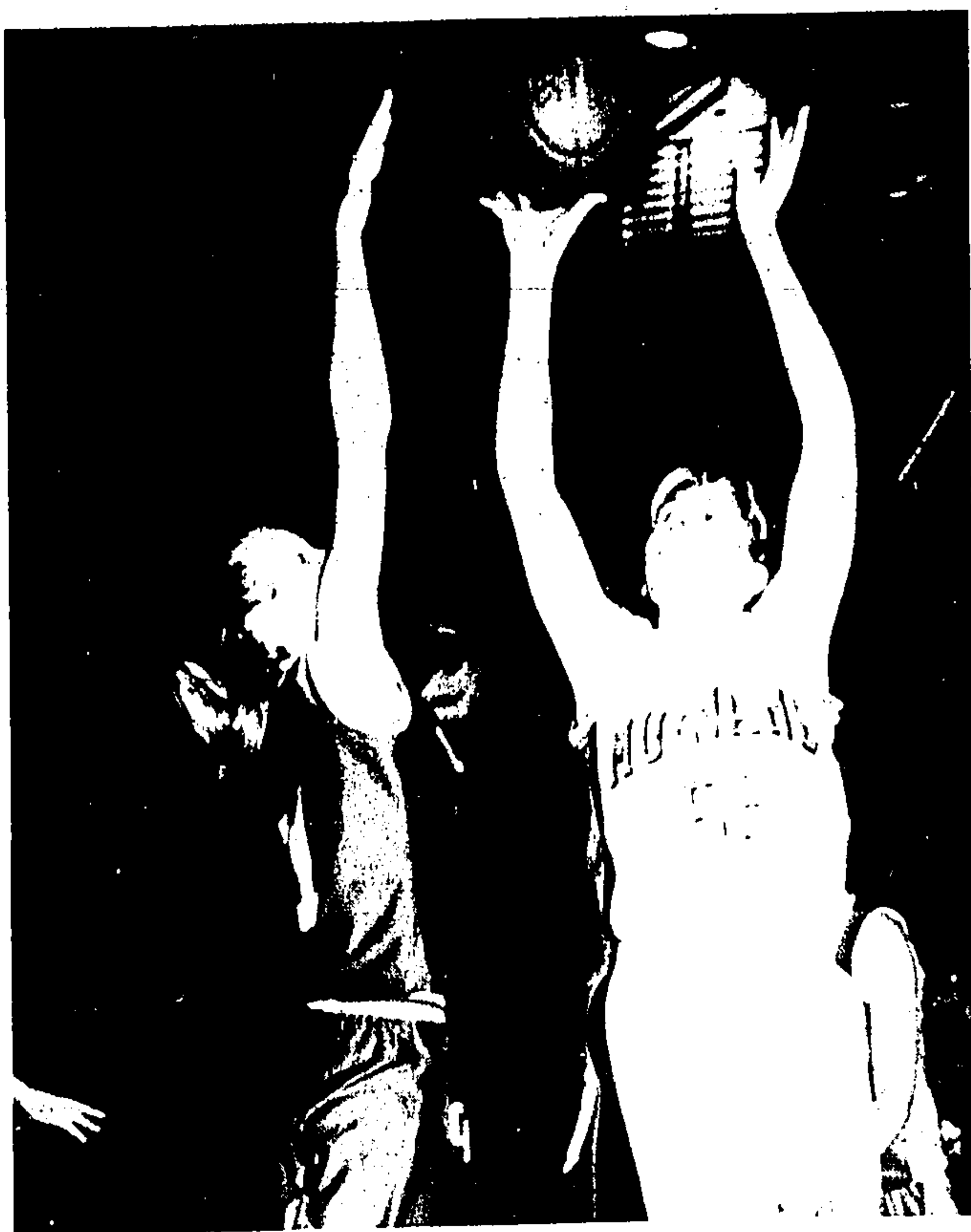
Circle	4	13	15	10	42
Mulvane	10	7	12	18	47
Circle	Megan Carson 2, Sarah Mills 15, Cori Sullard 7, Tessa Arasmith 3, Danielle Hecker 4, Heidi Wooderson 8, Keeley McFann 3, FG 16 (0), FT 10 (4), F 16				

Mulvane: Natalie Turner 6, Kim Mangus 8, Kari Leonard 6, Kris Lazar 2, Arin Leonard 3, LaShelle Parker 18, Jackie Burkhardt 1, Melissa Doerfer 1, Andrea Valeno 2, FG 18 (0), FT 11 (22), F 47

Junior Varsity Girls

Circle	6	10	0	8	24
Mulvane	8	12	9	16	45
Circle	Jenny Sullivan 2, Melissa Wendell 8, Erin McNeil 6, Katie Palmer 4, Becca Griffiths 2, Keeley McFann 2, FG 10 (0), FT 4 (12), F 19				

Mulvane: Sami Booth 7, Melissa Doerfer 9, Cindy Hartley 6, Jackie Burkhardt 4, Andrea Valeno 4, Kim Mangus 2, LaShelle Parker 2, Kris Lazar 9, Kari Leonard 2, FG 16 (0), FT 13 (19), F 15



Wildcat scorer LaShelle Parker (55) gets another open shot against Circle

a good plan, but you still have to go out and work your stuff and execute. Your kids still have to execute and we did at times."

Mulvane jumped out to the early lead but the T-Birds had tied it up by intermission. Circle took the momentum in the third quarter and seemed to be in the driver's seat with Turner and Parker riding the bench in the 4th quarter because of foul problems. "I wanted to give them some extra minutes of rest on the bench but when they got back in there, it was good timing because that's when we started our roll."

Miller felt the game was definitely one of the Cats' best defensive games. "Sure, there are always more things to work on, but we

saw some nice things out there on defense and that pleased me," pointed out the MHS coach. "We did a good job of keeping them off-balance and challenging their shots. We also had several blocks in the game."

In the junior varsity contest, the Wildcats blasted the T-Birds, 45-24, as guard frosh Melissa Doerfer and Kris Lazar scored nine points each, Sami Booth had seven and Cindy Hartley had six.

The Cats will be going to Rose Hill for another league battle Friday night, Jan. 14.

Chisholm Trail League Girls Basketball Standings

DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Andale	4	0	7	2
Kingman	2	1	5	2
Mulvane	2	1	3	4
Clearwater	2	1	2	4
Circle	2	2	3	5
Chaparral	1	3	2	6
Rose Hill	0	3	2	6

DIVISION I

Buhler	3	0	7	0
Maize	3	0	5	1
Andover	2	2	3	4
Goddard	1	1	5	1
Valley Center	1	2	3	4
Augusta	1	3	4	4
Wellington	0	3	2	5

Games Friday, Jan. 14

Mulvane at Rose Hill
Clearwater at Circle
Kingman at Andale
Augusta at Chaparral
Maize at Goddard
Wellington at Buhler
Valley Center at Andover