

Crusader Girls Show Why No. 1

Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Rod Cole isn't sure he had the best strategy planned for Buhler's No. 1 ranked Crusaders when they came to town Friday night, Jan. 9, for a Chisholm Trail League battle.

And after the 71-25 drubbing, the best strategy comes to mind...a power failure. No lights, no game.

The Crusaders showed Mulvane fans why they are ranked No. 1 in the Wichita Eagle Class 5A poll as they raced their record to 5-0 for the season and send Mulvane skidding to 1-6 on the year. It didn't take long for the visiting Crusaders to charge out to a 21-4 lead in the first quarter and hold to a 38-9 edge by intermission.

In the junior varsity contest, Mulvane held up well before losing, 56-31.

"We gave it the best effort we could under the circumstances," said Cole, who is in his first year at the helm after taking over for Bill Stinson. "But Buhler is just a tremendous team. We played a pretty good floor game but I wish we could have put more points on the board. Our shot selection was good but the shots just didn't go down."

Guard Robin Baker of Buhler, the head coach's daughter, showed Mulvane why they couldn't dwell on big frontliner Diana Miller, as she assaulted the Cats for 12 points in the opening frame and had 22 by intermission. She finished with 30 points. Meanwhile, Miller finished with 13 points.

"We just wanted to try and keep it close, run some time off the clock," said Cole. "We didn't want to run with them, and we did a pretty good job of it, but looking back, I wish we could have put the ball in the basket more. We'd hold it for 20 or 30 seconds, then wouldn't get the ball in the bucket."

While most teams try to contain Miller, Cole said her teammate Baker hurt the MHS girls' chances most. "Baker's the one who really hurt us,"

Girls Varsity

Buhler	21	17	24	9-71
Mulvane	4	5	10	6-25

Buhler—Diana Miller 13, Robin Baker 30, Chris Guillin 2, Heather Goleman 6, Jennifer Rose 4, Sherlyn Weide 5, Krissy Schwerdtfeger 2, Tricia Bottom 2, Angie Strano 3, Michelle Old 2. FG 33, FT 5-8, F 15.

Mulvane—Kathy Saxton 14, Angela Cox 7, Kandi Miller 2, Rhonda Reekie 2, Kim Prickett 0. FG 12-45, FT 1-8, F 9.

Girls Junior Varsity

Buhler	20	5	16	15-56
Mulvane	2	9	10	10-31

Buhler—Tricia Bottom 6, Angie Strano 8, Angie Thode 6, Shelly Martens 1, Michelle Old 14, Debbie Johnson 9, Jennifer Rose 4, Krissy Schwerdtfeger 8. FG 26, FT 4-19, F 19.

Mulvane—Toni Wayman 2, Heather Donaldson 4, Helen Christian 6, Tammy Kissinger 2, Karen Lewis 6, Kandi Miller 1, Angela Cox 3, Kim Millerskow 2, Rhonda Reekie 2, Kim Prickett 3. FG 12, FT 7.

said Cole. "She had a lot of second shots. I felt like we played pretty good defense but we just didn't block out like we should have and that let Baker get inside on us."

Meanwhile, the Mulvane inside game was being harnessed. Top scorer Kathy Saxton, a junior could manage only four points in the first half. "They played real good defense inside and it was hard to get it inside to Saxton. Too, I think we got a little intimidated with Miller inside in the middle," pointed out Cole.

Saxton did finish with 14 points but she had little offensive help as only three other MHS girls scored. Guard Angela Cox finished with seven points and Rhonda Reekie and Kandi Miller each had one bucket.

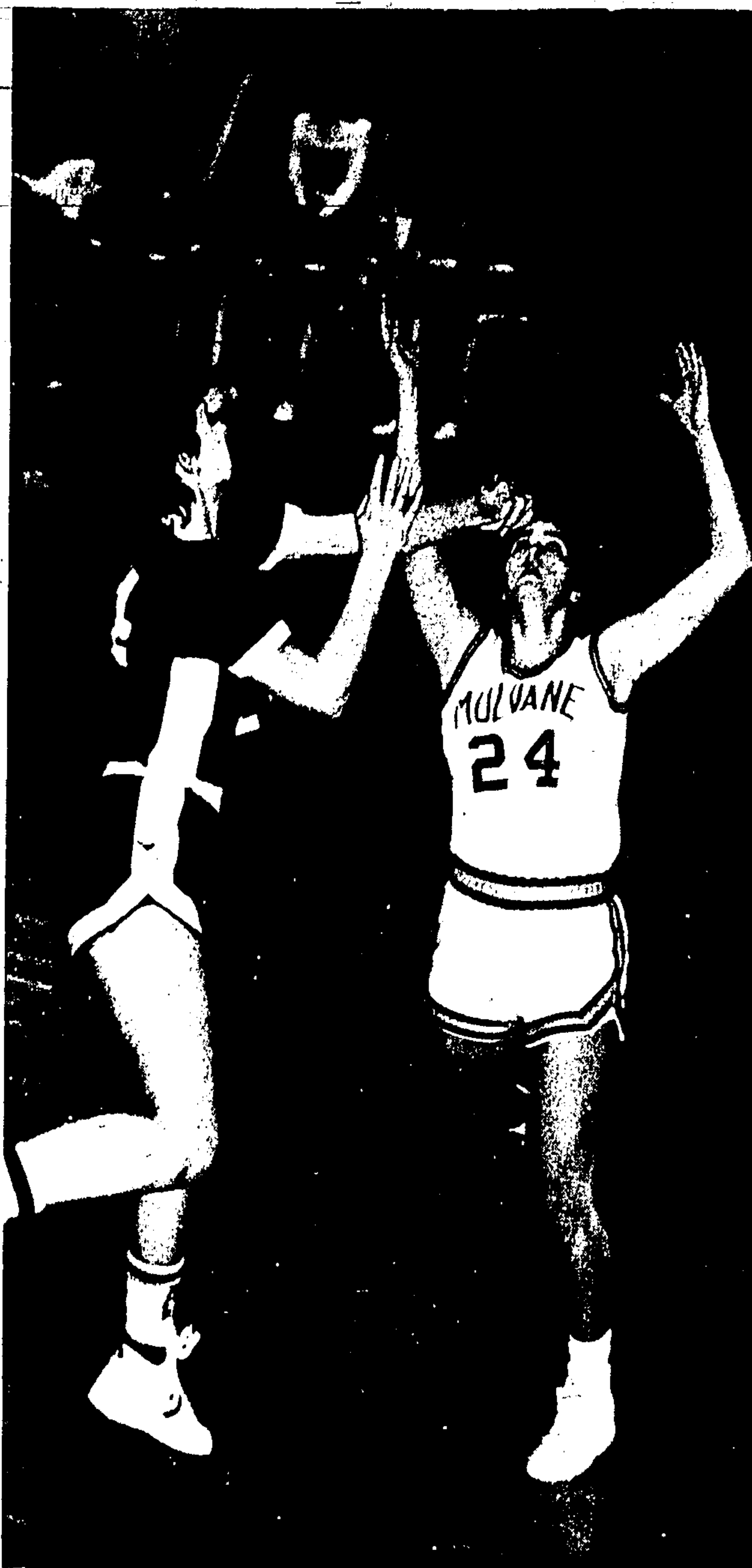
And it didn't help that the Wildcats made only one of eight from the free throw stripe.

"On a positive note, I think we learned a lot," said Cole. "They say you learn and get better by playing good people. Well, we got to do that. Too, I thought the girls held their heads pretty well and didn't let the outcome get them down."

In the junior varsity game, Coach Kristy Visor's outfit scored 31 points with 10 players sharing the scoring load. Helen Christian and Karen Lewis were the top scorers with six points apiece and Heather Donaldson finished with four points.

"I think both Helen and Karen had their best games ever," praised Cole.

Mulvane will be gunning for its second win at Wellington Friday night, Jan. 16, in a CTL game.



Cats' Kim Prickett [24] gets off a baseline jumper over the defense