

## Buhler, Maize Too Tough

# Rough New Year Start For Miller's BB Wildcats

It wasn't the kind of start for 2003 that Coach Jayson Miller was anticipating, but then again, Buhler and Maize weren't the teams to start building your reputation on.

The Crusaders were here Tuesday night, Jan. 14, just long enough to hand the Wildcat girls a 67-48 thrashing in a CTL game.

"We played a lot better in the second half but you have to play a whole game against good teams, and Buhler is a good team," said Miller. "We scored 16 in the entire first half, then came out and scored 16 in each of the 3rd and 4th quarters but by that time, the damage was done.

"We can't keep digging ourselves these big holes because it takes too much of our energy to climb back out of them. Then, we run out of steam and they don't. It's pretty frustrating."

The Wildcats got a nice scoring effort from insider Shayna Duncan and guard Melissa Doerfer, who had 12 and 11 points, respectively. Stephanie Tatum finished with eight points and Kayla Oblinger had nine.

"Kayla and Stephanie both played their best gems of the year these last two games and that has given us a lift," noted Miller. "But it all goes back to the same old nemesis: rebounding. It's killing us. We work on it, we work on it and we're just not getting it done. When you're a smaller team like we are you have to exaggerate it and hope that it carries over but we're struggling with it a lot."

That struggle was particularly emphasized in the opening half when the Crusaders posted some big numbers. By intermission, Buhler was ahead by a 35-16 count.

Maize' Eagles came to town Friday night, Jan. 10, for Mulvane's Winter Homecoming and the Eagles crowned the Cat girls, 60-35, in a Chisholm Trail League Division I game.

"Maize really has a great team," said Miller. "We played well for part of the game. Our intensity was better than it has been all year and we had the aggression we

needed. Unfortunately, we didn't shoot the ball well. We had some real lapses in our scoring. When you have trouble putting the ball in the hole against Maize, they're going to beat you."

It was "smackdown time," actually. The Eagles out-gunned the Cats out of the gate, 17-4, then put the game in the bag by out-scoring the Wildcats, 19-4, in the 3rd period. If it wouldn't have been for that, it would have been an interesting ball game. Mulvane actually made a run on Maize by out-scoring the Eagles, 17-12, with their best ball of the season in the 2nd quarter.

"We were able to make it a half-court game in that quarter," said Miller. "When we did that, we got some easy looks and some backdoor plays that got us going. We got some easy buckets and had them off-balance in that quarter to get back in the contest but they came out in the 3rd quarter and made some easy baskets. The girls hung their heads a little because they felt like they were losing the game."

The Wildcats got it back together in the last quarter and played Maize fairly even but couldn't cut into the 20-point deficit.

"We lost the game on the boards," pointed out Miller. "Maize scored some baskets in transition but they also scored 16 points off offensive rebounds on us. That's been our nemesis all year long. We have tried to work on it but it's something that you just have to go out and do. We have to find a way to block people out because everybody in our league has big girls who can go over the top. We're small and you have to block out to have a chance."

Turnovers didn't hurt the Cats as in previous years. Mulvane had 15 turnovers, which was only a couple more than Maize. Last year, Miller's Wildcats were averaging 22 turnovers a game. "We did have some untimely ones in the 3rd quarter that hurt us," said the Cat coach.

Senior guard Melissa Doerfer continued her team-best scoring by dumping in 15 points against Maize. Junior Shayna Duncan scored seven points. Stephanie Tatum had five points and Kayla Oblinger scored four.

The MHS jayvee team suffered the same fate as the varsity. Buhler bombed the Mulvane JV's, 58-28, and Maize raced past the Cats by a nearly identical score, 52-26.

Coach Mike Heater's jayvee girls were paced by Tara Roberts' seven points, five by Whitney Becker and four by Oblinger against Buhler.

### Girls Varsity

Buhler	14	21	16	18-67
Mulvane	6	10	16	18-48
Buhler--Courtney Brax 2, Jesse Faulkner 10, Amy Petty 15, Tahnee Balerio 13, Caitlin Pankratz 7, Kris Richman 14, Stephanie Beardslee 2, Jenna Fast 4	FG 22 (4), FT 19-30, F 14.			

Mulvane--Shayna Duncan 12, Kayla Oblinger 9, Whitney Becker 2, Abby Sorensen 4, Melissa Doerfer 11, Lacie Leatherman 2. FG 22 (0), FT 4-11, F 23

Maize	17	12	19	12--60
Mulvane	4	17	4	10--35

Maize--Brianna Willhite 9, Megan Marek 12, Angela Jakobov 13, Nicole Vogt 2, Madison Petrich 2, Liz Kramer 12. FG 23 (2), FT 12-23, F 14.

Mulvane--Melissa Doerfer 15, Abby Sorensen 2, Stephanie Tatum 5, Shayna Duncan 7, Whitney Becker 2, Kayla Oblinger 4. FG 13 (1), FT 8-10, F 16.

### Junior Varsity Girls

Buhler	12	12	17	11--52
Mulvane	10	5	6	5--26

Buhler--Courtney Brax 5, Brooke Cameron 3, Aunya Brown 4, Unruh 10, Sabrina Mandeville 7, Stephanie Beardslee 11, Jesse Faulkner 4, Renae Cikanek 8. FG 22 (3), FT 5-11, F 14.

Mulvane--Jessica Martin 2, Julie Miner 2, Nicole Pierce 2, Stephanie Tatum 6, Megan Turner 2, Laura Buchanan 6, Josey Gosch 2, Heather Richards 1, Kayla Oblinger 2. FG 11 (0), FT 4-8, F 15.

Maize	9	15	20	14--58
Mulvane	9	4	7	8--28

Maize--Fessenden 14, Vogt 9, Kramer 4, Schellenberg 6, Mounts 3, Riffel 2, Stephenson 6, Ayres 3, Ennis 2, Fairchild 2, Brucks 3, Hinckley 4. FG 24 (2), FT 9-14, F 19.

Mulvane--Tara Roberts 7, Kristi Parker 3, Kayla Oblinger 4, Jessica Brock 2, Jessica Martin 2, Stephanie Tatum 1, Whitney Becker 5, Josey Gosch 3, Megan Turner 1. FG 10 (0), FT 8-17, F 15.