

Mulvane Girls Surge Past 1st Opponent

When Arkansas City went into a man-to-man defense, the Mulvane High School Wildcat girls went into over-drive.

The Wildcats' inside game came alive in the 3rd quarter against the Bulldog man-to-man defense and the Cats squirted out to a comfortable lead and held on for a 53-41 victory Tuesday night, Jan. 22, capping the opening round action of the 22nd annual Wildcat Girls Classic at Mulvane High School.

The win parked Coach Jayson Miller's Wildcats squarely across the road to repeating for Campus' Colts, who slammed Wellington, 65-46, in an earlier game Tuesday night. The two teams will battle at 6 p.m. tonight (Jan. 24) for the right to march into the title game Saturday night at 7:30. Andale and Garden Plain are playing at 7:45 tonight in the other championship semifinal.

The game was a see-saw affair until the Bulldogs went into a man-to-man defense to start the 3rd quarter and the Wildcats quickly took advantage of the edge in size inside to blast out to a 14-point lead because of its inside game.

"That was a great opportunity for us and we were able to get (LaShelle) Parker inside for six quick points and (Shayna) Duncan scored a bucket and we were suddenly up by double digits," said Miller, whose Cats improved to 8-3 for the year. "Their 'man' couldn't hold us inside because of our size. Their biggest girl is about 5-9 and LaShelle is 6-1."

Miller also praised the game played by Kris Lazar, who kept the Cats in the game early and finished with 12 points, 10 of those coming in the first period. Senior Sami Booth also had a hot hand, breaking out of a slump with 13 points, including seven in the last quarter. Miller also cited two other critical factors: the play of guard Kari Leonard and a solid defensive and rebounding performance from Kim Mangus off the bench. "Kari and Kim really came through when we needed them," said Miller. "Kari had to handle the ball a lot and Kim had her best game of the year, helping us with her defense inside and rebounding."

Parker took scoring honors with 14 points and Leonard finished with five.

On the down side of the night, the Wildcats lost two point guards, Abby Sorensen and starter Melissa Doerfer, with injuries. Miller wasn't sure how serious the two injuries were, however.

So, you wanna hear the good news or the bad news first?

The bad news is that the "showdown" for the Mulvane High School girls basketball team Friday night, Jan. 18, at Buhler turned out to be a "showcase" for the Crusader Power. And the good news? Well, the Wildcats closed with a rush and made it look a lot closer. Buhler still ended up with the 71-60 edge over the MHS girls in a Chisholm Trail League encounter.

Mulvane Coach Jayson Miller had hoped to use the game as a springboard into the hunt for "Tittletown," but instead, the Cats slipped to 2-3 in the league and Buhler remained unbeaten in the CTL.

"We just made too many mistakes early," testified Miller. "The girls played

22nd Annual Wildcat Girls Classic Results

FIRST ROUND

Arkansas City	12	10	8	11-41
Mulvane	14	13	10	12-53

Arkansas City--Adamson 6, Warren 10, Hocker 2, Voegelé 12, Jennings 4, Nangrum 5, Albert 2. FG 15 (1), FT 10-12, F 19.

Mulvane--Kari Leonard 5, Sami Booth 13, LaShelle Parker 14, Kris Lazar 12, Shayna Duncan 4, Nicole Hackley 1. FG 18 (0), FT 13-19, F 12.

Campus 65, Wellington 46
Garden Plain 53, Clearwater 43
Andale 62 Andover 33

TODAY (JAN. 24)

Game 5 -- Clearwater vs. Andover, 4 p.m.
Game 6 -- Wellington vs. Arkansas City, Aux. Gym, 4
Game 7 -- Campus vs. Mulvane, 6 p.m.
Game 8 -- Andale vs. Garden Plain, 7:45

SATURDAY, JAN. 26

Game 9 (Seventh Place)--losers of games 5 and 6, 2 p.m.
Game 10 (Fifth Place)--winners of games 5 and 6, 3:45
Game 11 (Third Place)--losers of games 7 and 8, 5:30
Game 12 (First Place)--winners of games 7 and 8, 7:30

hard, but we turned the ball over way too much. In fact, we were lucky to even be that close to them with the way we turned it over. When you have more turnovers than shot attempts in the first quarter, you're going to be down. It's no wonder we were 11 points down after we had only six shots and 14 turnovers in the opening quarter.

"When you turn it over, that means your not getting a shot attempt on that trip down the floor, and they situation really put us in a big hole. You can't do that in big games."

Miller had hoped to go into the Buhler game and control the tempo of the contest. It didn't happen. "When we played our style, we had a lot of success," noted Miller. "When we made them guard us in a half-court set, we were getting shots, we were making shots, we were staying with them, but when we let them speed up the tempo of the game, they spurted on us. We played our style some of the time but just not enough."

The Wildcat girls cut into Buhler's 17-6 lead after one quarter by playing their style "Mulvane Ball." They out-scored the Crusaders, 19-17, in the second quarter but Buhler squirted again in the 3rd quarter, speeding up the game's tempo. The Crusaders out-gunned the Cats, 21-9, in the 3rd quarter and that was enough to coast into the last 12 minutes with a 21-point lead.

"We ended up with 30 turnovers but half of them came in the first quarter," said Miller. "We had only nine in the second half. I can live with that, but the unforced errors, the mistakes that don't even come from their pressure, is something that I don't like."

Miller said the Wildcats hung in against the Crusaders in two quarters by playing Mulvane's style. "We made them play in the half-court and when we did, we were as good as they were," said Miller. "I watched the films from the game and it was pretty evident. When we set the tempo, we passed to get good shots and we made those shots."

"I hope the girls saw the same thing I saw," added the Wildcat coach. "Three or four times, we'd get it to 11-12 points and they would get on another run and get it back up to 20."

Great shooting at the line also helped keep the Cats in the game. Mulvane had its best game of the year at the line, hitting 17 of 19 free throws.

In the junior varsity contest, Mulvane got the good start, hanging onto a 16-8 lead after one quarter of play, but the Crusaders rallied for a 48-43 victory.

Mulvane's JV team was led by Sara McKnight's 16 points. Nicole Hackley scored eight points and Stephanie Tatum, Kayla Linnebur, Abby Sorensen, Kayla Oblinger all scored four points.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	6	19	9	26-60
Buhler	17	17	21	16-71

Mulvane--LaShelle Parker 27, Kari Leonard 4, Melissa Doerfer 5, Sami Booth 2, Kris Lazar 12, Abby Sorensen 8, Kim Mangus 2. FG 21 (1), FT 17-19, F 21.
Buhler--Ronan 8, Petty 11, Tahnee Balerio 16, Fast 5, Hering 12, Richman 8, Hein 11. FG 26 (4), FT 15-22, F 18.

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	16	6	12	9-43
Buhler	8	14	10	16-48

Mulvane--Sara McKnight 16, Lacie Leatherman 3, Nicole Hackley 8, Kayla Oblinger 4, Abby Sorensen 4, Kayla Linnebur 4, Stephanie Tatum 4. FG 18 (0), FT 7-15, F 16.
Buhler--Bea 3, Petty 10, Camida 14, Norman 3, Beardslee 7, Lucas 1, Jones 4, Cikaneck 6. FG 18 (4), FT 8-17, F 14.