

Snap 3-Game Skid

Mulvane Girls Shake, Then 'Bake'

Shake up the line-up to shake up the results. That's what Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller did Tuesday night, Feb. 5, when winless Augusta came to town for Chisholm Trail League game.

Starting four different players had its scary moments early but by the second half, the Wildcats were in total command and pulled away for a 57-35 victory. The win snapped a three-game losing string. Augusta fell to 0-16 on the year.

"We struggled for a while but it was a win," said Miller. "We were just trying to shake up some things, trying to get some new energy into the line-up so we could get things moving for us a little bit and I thought those kids (who started) did a good job. They gave us what we wanted—some good energy. And I think it rubbed off on everybody else, especially in the second half."

In the first half, the Orioles hung tight, though, and in fact led, 9-8, after one quarter. Mulvane broke out after intermission on the run, rolling to a 19-7 edge in the quarter, then simply pulled away from a weak team.

"Coach (Mike) Heater suggested we go full court in the 3rd quarter and that was a great call," said Miller. "Once we sped up the game, we had it pretty much in our control." The Cats jumped into a full-court press in the 3rd quarter and Augusta had difficulty

getting the ball up the floor. The turnovers mounted and so did Mulvane's edge.

"We really needed a win, too," added Miller. "We've been struggling trying to find our offense. Tonight, people were looking to make that extra pass, looking to see if anybody closer was open and those are good things. The attempt was there so I think that at least got us back into a rhythm."

The Wildcats also had some good scoring balance, something that has been lacking of late. Shayna Duncan broke out of her slump, hitting several from outside. She finished with 12 points. Senior Kris Lazar also had a break-out game, scoring 14 points. LaShelle Parker scored 11 points, Kim Mangus had eight points and Sami Booth scored five.

The MHS jayvee girls throttled the Orioles, too, winning a 44-38 game. Stephanie Tatum scored 12 points, Duncan finished with 10, Sara McKnight scored eight and Janie Wilkinson had six points.

The Mulvane High School girls wanted to run with the "Big Dogs" this season, but so far have only been able to bark loudly as they all run past.

The latest of the "Big Dogs" to upend the Wildcats is Maize. The Wildcats and Maize played an unusual Saturday morning contest, Feb. 2, because of the bad weather

that curtailed games last Tuesday night, Jan. 29, and Maize had to huff and puff, but the Eagles finally put the Wildcats away in the fading moments, 49-39.

That loss dropped Coach Miller's girls to 8-6 for the year after an impressive 6-1 start. Coming into this season, Miller felt his Cats could challenge the Goddards, the Valley Centers, the Buhlers, the Maizes, and Mulvane had done that in a couple of those head-to-head games but the reality is that the Cats are still 0-4 against the "program" teams.

"Mentally, we seem to be struggling with the 'Big Dog' factor," admitted Miller, "but except for the Goddard game, we were in every one of them. We played them pretty close except for the Goddard game. The girls seem to struggle with that. They just need to go out there against those teams and have fun, play like they can play."

For much of the game Saturday at Maize, Miller believed the Wildcats would finally break through. Even though the Wildcats didn't play especially well, it was a close game, and the Eagles had to make 14 of 20 free throws in the last quarter to finally pull away. At the other end of that formula, the Wildcats hit only 11 of 29 free tosses during the game.

"It was a single-digit game most of the way until we had to foul to try to get the ball back," said Miller. "The difference in the game was they made their free throws and we missed ours. A couple of games ago, we were hitting our free throws with confidence but Saturday, I don't know. We shot them like we didn't think they would go in and they didn't."

The Wildcats had some great opportunities early to pull away but couldn't take advantage of the breaks. "It was a weird game, playing in the morning," said the Cat coach. "Both teams started slowly. Maize had played the night before and we never really got into a rhythm the whole game on offense. It's been kind of a downer for us lately. We've been in a slump shooting-wise and we need to get out of it, the sooner the better."

The slump started—although Miller doesn't like to make a point of it—when he had two point guards injured within about five minutes of each other four games ago. "Since

Varsity Girls				
Augusta	9	9	7	10-35
Mulvane	8	10	19	20-57
Augusta—Cami Hahn 11, Heidi Dreiling 6, Heather Rinkenbaugh 3, Toni Usher 2, Aubrie Schwemmer 13, FG 12 (1), FT 10-15, F 15.				
Mulvane—Kim Mangus 8, Shayna Duncan 12, Nicole Hackley 2, Kayla Oblinger 2, LaShelle Parker 11, Kari Leonard 1, Kayla Linnebur 2, Sami Booth 5, Kris Lazar 14, FG 23 (0), FT 11-14, F 16.				
Mulvane	6	11	10	12-39
Maize	11	11	9	18-49
Mulvane—Kris Lazar 1, LaShelle Parker 15, Kim Mangus 8, Shayna Duncan 2, Sami Booth 7, Nicole Hackley 4, Kayla Linnebur 2, FG 14 (0), FT 11-29, F 32.				
Maize—Megan Marek 10, Brianna Willhite 13, Jakubov 1, Marling 3, Liz Kramer 11, Brucks 2, Petrich 9, FG 11 (2), FT 25-33, F 28.				

Junior Varsity Girls				
Augusta	8	8	8	14-38
Mulvane	14	10	11	9-44
Augusta—Anna Helmer 2, Mai-My Ta 9, Cara Stevenson 2, Alysia Ledgerwood 4, Heather Rinkenbaugh 2, Toni Usher 8, Christina Loveless 1, Jamee Farmer 4, Laura Garcia 6.				
Mulvane—Sara McKnight 8, Nicole Hackley 2, Rachel Edwards 2, Shayna Duncan 10, Janie Wilkinson 6, Kayla Linnebur 4, Stephanie Tatum 12.				
Mulvane	6	4	6	4-20
Maize	6	16	8	13-43
Mulvane—Kayla Linnebur 2, Janie Wilkinson 2, Kayla Oblinger 2, Nicole Hackley 2, Sara McKnight 9, Lacie Leatherman 1, Whitney Becker 2.				
Maize—Arnold 2, Stephenson 2, McClellan 6, Aynes 7, Fairchild 6, Vogt 6, Brucks 14.				

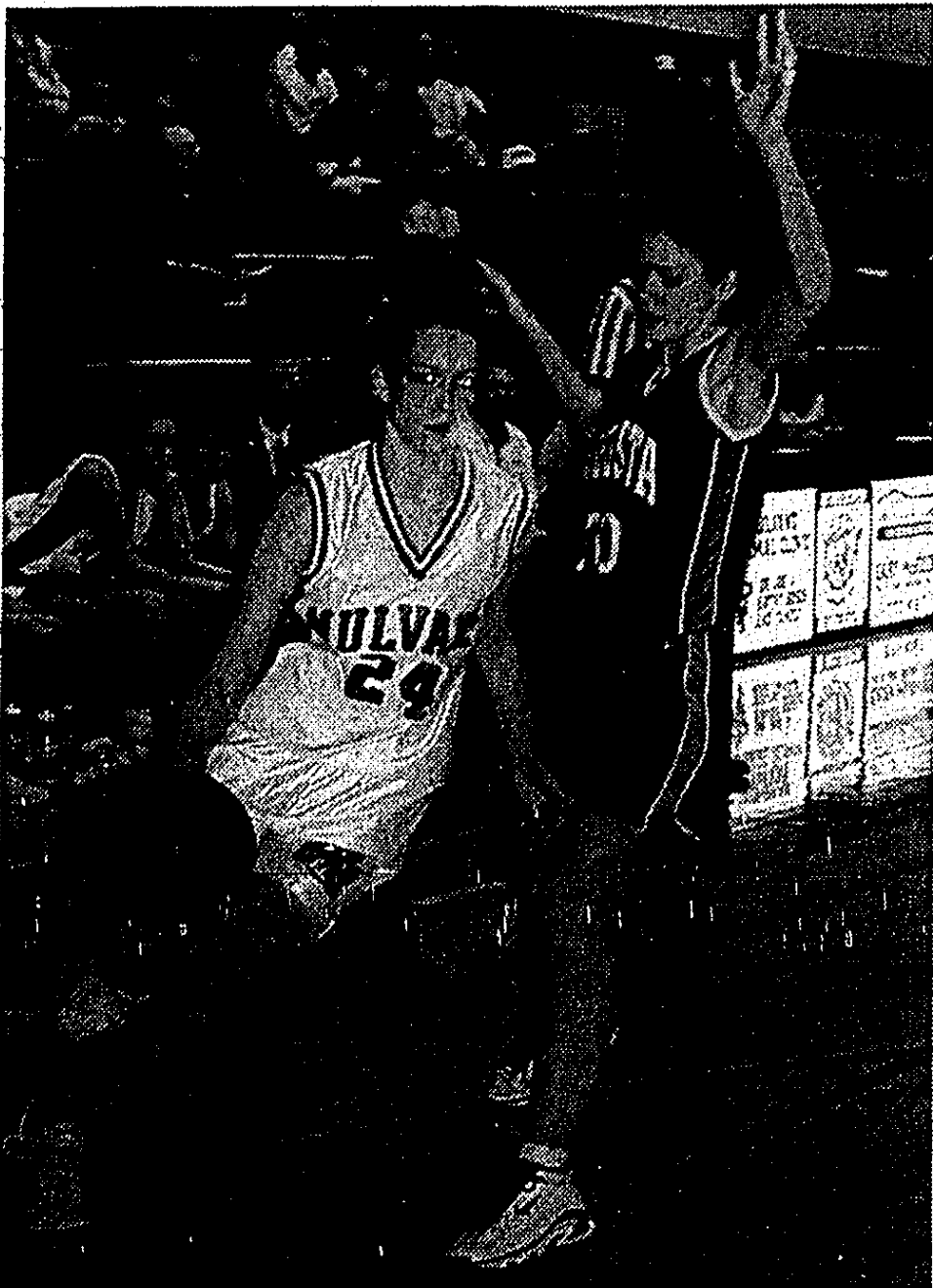
then, we haven't been in sync," said Miller. "It's like we're just a step behind of getting the ball where we need to get it to score."

The second half at Maize proved to be a more coordinated effort on offense but that effort couldn't overcome the biggest factors in the ball game: Mulvane at the free throw stripe-11-29, and Maize at the stripe 25-33.

Parker led the scoring for the Cats, hitting 15 points in the paint. Mangus had eight points and Booth scored seven. Nicole Hackley was next for the Wildcats with four points.

In the junior varsity game, Maize blasted the Cats, 42-20. High scorer for Mulvane's jayvees was McKnight with nine points.

The girls will be busy in the next six days with three games on tap. The Wildcats will meet Andover for Winter Homecoming Friday night, Feb. 8, then the Cats will make up the Valley Center game Monday night, Feb. 11, which was postponed because of ice on Feb. 1st. They will get another crack at Goddard Tuesday, Feb. 12, with a road game in Lion country.



Shayna Duncan (24) slips past an Augusta defender for a two-pointer in the paint