

# Cat Girls

## Break Out

Sometimes turnovers can be beautiful—when it's theirs!

Mulvane survived a late rally that pulled Augusta to within two points with under two minutes left but a pair of turnovers enabled the Cats to hold on for a 51-45 verdict Tuesday night, Feb. 6, in a Chisholm Trail League game at Augusta.

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for Coach Jayson Miller's MHS Wildcat girls and gave Mulvane a lift. Mulvane worked hard to push an early lead to double-digits but the Orioles inched back into the game and trailed only 45-43, with 1:30 left in the game. Mulvane pulled away by getting two turnovers to out-score Augusta, 6-2, the rest of the way. The loss kept the Orioles winless and in last place in the league.

Sami Booth led the Wildcat scoring with 14. Guard Melissa Doerfer contributed 12 points to the MHS offense. Kris Lazar scored nine points and LaShelle Parker had eight as the Cat girls improved their record to 7-8 overall and 3-5 in the conference after starting off at 2-1.

The "road back" is always tougher than the road going down, but MHS girls coach Jayson Miller believes the Wildcats are on the "road back" after some rocky play.

Valley Center kept the Cats in their January skid Friday night, Jan. 2, handing the Cat girls a 46-29 beating on Homecoming night. But Miller saw signs, saw life, saw hope.

"We played better than we have been playing," said Miller, "but it's hard to gauge since it came against Valley Center. We're still not quite where we need to be. We have too many costly turnovers and we're not taking care of the ball like we should be."

It's tough to look good against the Hornets, who are undefeated in the Chisholm Trail League Division I and 10-3 overall. The Cats dropped their 4th straight and 7th in the last eight games.

"We played a lot better than we did the first time we met them in Valley Center," added Miller. "We're still trying to get out of this funk but it doesn't get any easier. You just have to bear down and play through it. We did score more points and we held them to fewer points. I think we got beat over 30 up there (67-47)."

"Actually we played a lot better defensively but it's just those three-to-four minute lapses where we fall to pieces. That's been the difference in a number of games for us. We get into stretches where we don't play good basketball on offense or on defense. We really haven't had a game for a while where we have had five or six girls play really well together. We definitely, definitely need that. We need the whole team playing together."

After once around in the league, its no secret what the Wildcats like to do on offense: get the ball inside where LaShelle Parker, Kris Lazar and Andrea Valerio can pound it, then pop it out to Sami Booth for a

### Varsity Girls

Mulvane	12	14	14	11-51
Augusta	10	11	9	15-45
Mulvane--Sami Booth 14, Kris Lazar 9, LaShelle Parker 8, Melissa Doerfer 12, Jackie Burkhart 2, Michelle Dinkel 2, Andrea Valerio 4. FG 23 (0), FT 5-9.				
Augusta--Schwemmer 10, Dreiling 4, Kappelmann 1, Harger 21, Taton 5, Loewen 4. FG 16 (2), FT 7-12.				
Valley Center	10	16	11	9-46
Mulvane	8	6	8	7-29
Valley Center--Kristen Welk 12, Janelle Klein 15, Courtney Smith 2, Kasey Porter 5, Karal' Covey 11, Ranee Brown 2. FG 17 (4), FT 8-18, F 15.				
Mulvane--LaShelle Parker 6, Jackie Burkhart 2, Sami Booth 8, Melissa Doerfer 4, Michelle Dinkel 2, Kris Lazar 6, Janie Wilkinson 1. FG 12 (0), FT 5-11, F 18.				

### Junior Varsity Girls

Valley Center	0	5	4	12-21
Mulvane	4	2	6	11-23
Valley Center--Jami Thompson-1, Jessica Tittsworth 5, Adrienne Lee 4, Joanne Fluker 7, Courtney Smith 4. FG 8 (0), FT 5-14, F 14.				
Mulvane--Kayla Linnebur 4, Janie Wilkinson 2, Emily Turner 4, Shayna Duncan 10, Nicole Hackley 3. FG 10 (0), FT 3-4, F 13.				
Maize	16	9	14	12-51
Mulvane	1	7	8	8-24
Maize--Brucks 12, Coburn 2, Martling 2, Petriott 2, Love 3, Miller 6, Woodward 16, Hearn 8. FG 20 (2), FT 9-17, F 12.				
Mulvane--Cristin Richards 4, Janie Wilkinson 7, Kayla Linnebur 6, Emily Turner 1, Shayna Duncan 4, Lacie Leatherman 2. FG 8 (1), FT 7-10, F 17.				

shot or a drive. Throw in some jumpers by guards Melissa Doerfer and Jackie Burkhart and you have the Mulvane offense. But teams have been plugging up the inside pass.

"It's no real secret, teams are going to make you do things you don't want to do," said Miller. "They know we want to get it inside to LaShelle and they're doing things to keep you from doing that. We haven't stepped up and proven that our team is a whole lot more than LaShelle."

Still, Miller saw a few "silver linings" out there. "Physically, I thought we played a lot harder than we had been playing," emphasized the Cat coach. "I think that's a good indication that the girls are coming out of it. It seems like the tougher the team we play, the harder the girls play."

"I was also pleased with (Michelle) Dinkel's play. She's learning a lot right now as a player. She still makes a lot of mistakes, but she's learning from them and she's helping us in so many ways. Another good thing is that we finally did better on the boards and that's good. Earlier in the year when we were playing much better, we were out-rebounding people but lately, our rebounding has been killing us."

Against VC, Parker had only six points. Booth topped the scoring chart with eight points. Lazar finished with six and Doerfer scored four.

The MHS junior varsity girls edged past the Hornets Friday night, 23-21, holding on after taking the early lead. Shayna Duncan scored 10 points and Emily Turner and Kayla Linnebur had four points each. Nicole Hackley finished with three.

In the previous JV game against Maize, the Cats got shelled, 51-24, as the Eagles soared out to a 16-1 start. Janie Wilkinson was the No. 1 scorer for Mulvane with seven points, Linnebur scored six and both Duncan and Cristin Richards had four-point games.