

Overtime Throws End The Drama

Jayson Miller would take just an regular win by 20 in regulation any old day, but that's not what he got Tuesday night, Feb. 8, when his Mulvane High School girls went to Clearwater. It took an overtime period before the Cats could slip past Clearwater for the third time this year, 50-43.

"It was a lot more exciting than I wanted," admitted Miller, whose Cats hit four straight free throws in the final 90 seconds to tie the game, then made seven of 11 charity throws in overtime to win it.

"Kari (Leonard) hit two free throws after Clearwater had come back to take the lead, then after Clearwater made another basket, Kris (Lazar) hit two free throws," said Miller. "Those were big because we had just missed four in a row at the line."

The free throw line was big all night for the Cats, who are now 6-9 and 4-4 in the CTL. Mulvane made 21 free throws, shooting 45, to out-score the Indians by 11 at the stripe.

Mulvane started the game in excellent shape. After taking a 6-3 lead after one quarter, Mulvane went on a 16-2 run to take a 22-5 lead but the Indians battled back and actually dominated the last quarter until the free throws by Leonard and Lazar.

"We started playing not to lose instead of aggressively like we played in the first half," said Miller. "We were back on our heels but the girls came through at the end. We got some great play by Sami Booth off the bench and that helped."

Booth hit a career-high 11 points. LaShelle Parker also was in double figures with 10. Kari Leonard finished with nine, senior Ann Leonard scored eight and freshman guard Melissa Doerfer had six.

Three words explain Coach Miller's philosophy about winning: defense, defense, defense.

And that's where the Wildcat girls slipped Friday night, Feb. 4, before a homecoming throng of yelling fans. Playing Chaparral at home, the Cats didn't put a big "D" in defense and consequently the Roadrunners roared off with a 59-44 triumph.

Varsity Girls

Mulvane 6 18 8 7 (11)-50
Clearwater 3 10 9 17 (14)-43

Mulvane—Kari Leonard 9, Melissa Doerfer 6, Sami Booth 11, Kris Lazar 2, LaShelle Parker 10, Ann Leonard 8, Carisa Ward 2, Jackie Burkhart 2. FG 14 (1), FT 21-45, F 19.

Clearwater—Carina Richardson 12, Jackie Ray 10, Erin Leger 1, Brenda Davis 2, Jamie Bernsen 18. FG 16 (0), FT 10-17, F 34.

Chaparral 12 13 14 20--59
Mulvane 12 6 11 15--44

Chaparral—Emily Shirk 9, Ashley Inlee 14, Melissa Drouhard 1, Virginia Brown 7, Randi Ward 2, Krista Kastler 7, Alison Latta 10. FG 22 (0), FT 15-33, F 15.

Mulvane—Kari Leonard 3, Natalie Turner 8, Melissa Doerfer 2, Jackie Burkhart 4, LaShelle Parker 16, Ann Leonard 3, Sami Booth 4, Carisa Ward 4. FG 19 (0), FT 6-11, F 24.

Junior Varsity Girls

Chaparral 2 3 12 7--18
Mulvane 16 7 9 5--37

Chaparral—Rachel Gill 2, Megan Gerber 1, Randi Ward 6, Melissa Drouhard 2, Krista Kastler 6, Ann Wedman 1. FG 8 (0), FT 2-10, F 16.

Mulvane—Sami Booth 6, Cindy Hartley 2, Michelle Dinkel 2, Melissa Doerfer 4, Kris Lazar 8, LaShelle Parker 5, Nicole Hackley 3, Jackie Burkhart 3, Andrea Valerio 2, Natalie Turner 2. FG 17 (1), FT 2-7, F 12.

Mulvane 5 12 11 10--38
Kingman 12 12 11 19--54

Mulvane—Sami Booth 14, Cindy Hartley 2, Michelle Dinkel 6, Andrea Valerio 4, Natalie Turner 2, Jackie Burkhart 6, LaShelle Parker 4. FG 14 (1), FT 9-13, F 13.

Kingman—Bergkamp 6, Geist 23, Vaughn 6, Funke 6, Hageman 4, Ashida 2, Osborn 5, Houk 2. FG 21 (4), FT 8-15, F 12.

"We just had a lot of trouble guarding them Friday night," admitted Miller. "Chaparral is playing real good basketball right now. They were coming off of just beating Circle and you have to give them credit. They are young like we are but they have a lot of athletes and they're very active. We just didn't do a good enough job defensively."

Chappy broke away from a 12-12 tie after the first quarter and won each of the last three periods. "We had 44 points, which isn't bad for us, but we had trouble shutting them down," said Miller. "Right now, we have a lot of people hurt and we're looking at a lot of different combinations playing together. Sometimes, those combinations don't have the same cohesion defensively that some of our regular combinations do and that hurts. That's not an excuse but changing combinations doesn't help your defensive effort."

"That's where Chaparral took advantage of us. They also shot the ball really well and that hurt. Chaparral hit 43% of their shots from the floor. What we have been giving up most of this year is around 30%, so that was quite a difference in shooting."

It was the second time this season Chaparral has beaten the Cats, although they only beat Mulvane by four earlier. "In that game, we were down eight or nine points and made a run at them," said Miller. "This time, we got down eight or nine and they made a run with about four or five minutes left to increase their lead."

"I'm not overly disappointed with 44 points but it's nothing to shout about. The real key is that we're just giving up too many points. In the second quarter when they started pulling away, we didn't get the stops we were getting in the first quarter."

Much of the Cat offense was generated in the paint. The offense was clicking when there was good motion, good passes and good entry passes inside to center LaShelle Parker. She finished with 16 points. Guard Natalie Turner scored eight points and Jackie Burkhart, Sami Booth and Carisa Ward all chipped in with four points.

However, down the stretch, Parker was dogged by foul trouble and the need to try to rally behind a quicker, more mobile lineup. "When we got the ball inside to our post people, we were effective on offense," said the Cat coach.

Guards Burkhart and Melissa Doerfer both were knocked out of the game with injuries and sophomore Kim Mangus blew a knee last week and is out for the year. Another sophomore insider, Kris Lazar, played sick the entire game, but Miller wasn't about to let that be an alibi.

The MHS junior varsity girls improved their record to 4-4 last week. They dropped Chappy, 37-18, Friday night, but Kingman used a 19-10 edge in the last quarter to pull away for a 54-38 triumph Tuesday, Feb. 1st.

Against Chaparral's jayvees, Lazar finished with eight points, Booth scored six, Parker added five points and Doerfer scored four.

Coach Dale Landes' girls gave Kingman's JVs all they wanted before the Eagles pulled away in the last few minutes of the game. Booth scored a career-high 14 points to power the offense and Burkhart and Michelle Dinkel scored six points each.