

Up, Down Season Tough On Sanity

Who could blame Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller if he went crazy?

Things go good. Then, they don't. You think you know something. Then you don't.

One thing Miller is sure of, though. "There is no magic pill," said Miller, who is struggling with a Wildcat team that has been wildly inconsistent so far this season. Up, down. All around town as they say.

The Wildcats hit the skids the last couple of games after playing some good ball in their own tournament last week. Mulvane's girls turned around Friday night, Feb. 7, and lost a 40-31 game to previously winless Augusta, and it came on the home turf to boot. A trip to Valley Center Tuesday, Feb. 4, was even worse. The Hornets were having a down year (5-10) but the Cats gave them a lift. VC blitzed Mulvane, 65-43, in a game that really wasn't even that close.

"We're just not playing real well right now," said Miller, whose team tumbled to 4-11 for the season. "I wish there was a magical answer to make it all go better. You think you know something, and then you don't. We played four straight pretty good games going into Valley and Augusta and in those two, we didn't even show up."

Miller said the low point of his five years with the Cats came against Valley Center but losing at home to the winless Orioles had to hurt, too.

"Augusta played very under control,

worked the ball around and played much, much better than they did the first time we played them," said Miller. "We were out there still trying to figure out what was a good shot. Unfortunately, that put us in a mood to rush our shots and then we had to hustle back quickly on defense because we're not a good rebounding team."

Even playing poorly, the Wildcats still had the edge at halftime, leading, 19-13, but the Orioles came out blazing in the second half and pulled away. They out-scored Mulvane, 27-12, in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

"When the 2nd half started, they came out and scored eight quick points and we were suddenly down by two," said the Cat coach Miller. "We also had a tremendous amount of foul trouble and it quickly got worse in the 2nd half and that set the stage for the rest of the game.

"What bothers me is that you wonder which team is going to show up each night for us," added Miller. "We looked like the team that hadn't won a game. Augusta came out hungry and we weren't."

One wonders how Augusta won a game where the Orioles made only 10 of 27 shots from the free throw line.

Melissa Doerfer, a senior guard, cashed in with 11 points against the Orioles. Abby Sorensen finished with six points and Shayna Duncan, freshman Tara Roberts and Whitney Becker all scored four points.

At Valley Center, it was a night to forget as far as Miller was concerned. "I really don't even want to talk about that one," said Miller. "I mean, what can you say. That was the low point of my career here. There was definitely an intimidation factor there. In the blink of an eye, we were down 11-0."

And that was the high point of the game for the Cats. By the end of the first quarter, VC had a 22-5 lead and by halftime, it was 45-7.

"We didn't run our offense, we took crazy shots," noted Miller. "They were able to come down and score quickly on our defense by getting the ball inside to their post people. They have some excellent post people and they just controlled us entirely."

Doerfer topped the scoring chart for the Cats with 10 points. Duncan finished with eight points and Stephanie Tatum had four.

The Wildcats won't play on Valentine's Day because of the scheduling rotation but will get back on the court at Maize Tuesday, Feb. 18. Maize is leading the league.

Girls Varsity

Augusta	8	5	15	12-40
Mulvane	10	9	6	6-31

Augusta—Heather Rinkenbaugh 9, Aubrie Schwemmer 15, Ruby Hancock 0, Heidi Dreiling 7, Natalie Critchfield 9. FG 14 (2), FT 10-27, F 13.

Mulvane—Shayna Duncan 4, Tara Roberts 4, Melissa Doerfer 11, Whitney Becker 4, Abby Sorensen 6, Lacie Leatherman 2. FG 13 (0), FT 5-8, F 26.

Mulvane	5	2	7	12-43
Valley Center	22	23	13	7-65

Mulvane—Kayla Linnebur 2, Abby Sorensen 2, Shayna Duncan 8, Melissa Doerfer 10, Stephanie Tatum 4. FG 12 (1), FT 1-2, F 10.

Valley Center—Lauren Venning 13, Tessa Morrow 16, Alli Klein 2, Schwab 4, Janelle Klein 22, Jessica Titusworth 6; Whitney Mullins 2. FG 28 (4), FT 5-7, F 7.

Junior Varsity Girls

Augusta	6	10	10	7-33
Mulvane	6	9	6	13-34

Augusta—Mai-My Ta 3, Alysia Ledgerwood 4, Laura Garcia 11, Jamie Farmer 7, Abby Nordman 4, Natalie Critchfield 2, Heather Rickenbaugh 2. FG 15 (1), FT 2-4, F 17.

Mulvane—Jessica Martin 2, Heather Richards 3, Laura Buchanan 10, Josey Gosch 3, Tara Roberts 9, Whitney Becker 1, Megan Turner 4, Nicole Pierce 2. FG 13 (1), FT 7-14, F 10.