

Hail Of 'Threes'

'B' Finally Shakes Pesky Cat Girls

Buhler had the answer for every big play by the Wildcats...a three-pointer.

The Crusaders rained 10 "threes" on the Mulvane High School girls Friday night, Feb. 20, but the visiting Buhler team needed every one of them to hold off the MHS girls, 67-54, in the final Mulvane home game of the regular season.

Mulvane coach Jayson Miller was mostly upbeat following the game. After all, his Cats had played one of their best games in several seasons and had the Crusaders, who are tied for the Chisholm Trail League Division I lead, on the run most of the game.

"Buhler's a great team but we played hard," said Miller. "After so many games up and down this year, it's great to see our kids play like they did. It's hard to understand why we can't put that team on the floor every night. That's the team I want to see every game. That's the team we can win with. That's the team we can go to the next level with."

But in the end, Buhler always had the answer and it came in threes. The Crusaders put down 10 of them. "What I respect most about them is that every time we made a big play, they came back with a big play, too, and it was usually a three," said Miller. "There was one point in the 3rd quarter where we came down and hit a three but they took it back and hit one themselves. We came back and hit a big play, then they went back and hit another three."

Trading twos for threes isn't going to win. "I don't think I've ever had a team hit 10 3s against us—ever," said Miller. "The problem is that about half of those were wide open. They took advantage of some rotation problems we had and made 10 of 21 beyond the arc. Any coach in the nation is going to take that. It's kind of strange in a way because when they started the game, they were trying to get the ball inside."

Most of the final half, the score swayed between the two teams as both squads were white-hot.

Finally, the threes gave Buhler some daylight and it went to a seven-eight-point deficit. "We had a couple of turnovers during that time," said Miller. "The girls were

Girls Varsity

Buhler	21	9	14	23-67
Mulvane	17	13	12	12-54
Buhler—	Caitlin Pankratz 12, Brittany Hines 6, Stephanie Beardslee 4, Jenna Fast 5, Tahnee Balerio 25, Courtney Brax 5, Kris Richman 10 FG 19 (10), FT 19-24, F 18			
Mulvane—	Shayna Duncan 22, Tasha Parman 2, Tara Roberts 18, Stephanie Tatum 2, Abby Sorensen 8 FG 20 (0), FT 14-16, F 19			

Junior Varsity Girls

Buhler	11	8	12	6-38
Mulvane	4	4	10	5-23
Buhler—	Audra Reed 2, Stephanie Beardslee 3, Whitney Jones 11, Brooke Cameron 8, Brittany Hines 11, Sara Unruh 1, Danielle Fesler 2 FG 15 (5), FT 3-8, F 10			
Mulvane—	Megan Turner 2, Whitney Becker 2, Laura Buchanan 9, Kristi Parker 8, Jessica Martin 2 FG 9 (0), FT 5-8, F 11			

trying hard but once they got the lead up there we had to foul and they finished it. They hit everything."

The Crusaders went 19 out of 24 from the free throw line overall and in the 4th quarter, the Crusaders hit 10 of 13. The Cats' had no room to make up ground despite hitting 4-for-4 themselves in the last quarter.

"They did what they needed to do to win," added Miller. "It was really a great game. These girls can play with Buhler this year, they are totally capable of playing with Buhler. They just have to believe it can happen to make it happen."

The loss left Miller's Wildcats at 6-12 heading into the final two games of the regular season. Both league games are on the road at Goddard and at Valley Center.

"We just didn't guard on the perimeter," observed Miller. "We tried to go man-to-man and when we did, they'd screen on the perimeter and hit a three. We tried zone and they'd hit a three."

The Wildcats didn't go away, though. With senior Shayna Duncan scoring 22 points and sophomore Tara Roberts scooping in 18, the Wildcats were up for the challenge. Abby Sorensen added eight points.

Buhler also prevailed in the jayvee game Friday night, handing the Cats a 38-23 setback. Only Laura Buchanan and Kristi Parker offered consistent scoring for the Wildcats. Buchanan had nine points and Parker eight.