

Cat Girls Exit In 1st Round; Little Things Come Up Big

In the sub-state, everything is magnified—especially all the little things.

"When you get to the playoffs, the little things are so much bigger," said Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller. "A missed pass here or a missed free throw there adds up. Then, you're left with the 'what if' game to play a million times."

The Wildcat girls are playing the "what if" game today after losing in the opening round of the Mulvane Class 4A Sub-State Monday night, March 1, in El Dorado.

Miller's Cats had hoped for better. El Dorado's girls were 9-11 and seeded No. 3 and a victory would have brought the Cats home for a semifinal but El Dorado held off the MHS girls, 34-30.

Other 1st round winners were Circle (62-24 over hapless Andover), Rose Hill (58-38 over Douglass) and Andover Central (48-38 over Augusta). Andover Central and El Dorado will mix it up at 6 p.m. tonight (March 4) in one semifinal and No. 1 seeded Circle will tackle Rose Hill at 7:30 in the other semi in the Mulvane High gym. The championship game is at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

"We wanted to come out and show up," said Miller about Monday night's outing. "I think we were all a little mad about the way things went last week at Valley Center. Win or lose, I think the girls wanted to play hard and they did. We didn't shoot quite as good as I know we can but we did play hard. I thought that showed a lot of character for a 6-15 team. Not too many in that situation would fight as hard as we did."

The Wildcats actually got off to a stunning start in the first 90 seconds at El Dorado. Mulvane leaped out to a 5-0 lead. Little did Miller know those were the only points the Wildcats would get the rest of the quarter and two minutes into the 2nd quarter. El Dorado scored the next 13 points.

Mulvane was still in the game, though, at intermission. It was 15-9 at halftime. "We

Mulvane Class 4A Sub-State Results

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	5	4	10	11-30
El Dorado	9	6	9	10-34
Mulvane—Tara Roberts 7, Shayna Duncan 7, Abby Sorensen 8, Stephanie Tatum 4, Kayla Oblinger 4	FG 10 (3), FT 7-14, F 16			
El Dorado—Katherine Ward 2, Annie Matthews 2, Libby Connell 2, Kristina Jones 17, Caitlin Deen 7, Brooke Demo 4	FG 10 (2), FT 12-17, F 14			
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Andover Central 48, Augusta 38				
Rose Hill 58, Douglass 38				
Circle 62, Andover 24				

REGULAR SEASON

Girls Varsity

Mulvane	4	9	12	7-32
Valley Center	17	17	22	12-68
Mulvane—Laura Buchanan 6, Abby Sorensen 14, Tara Roberts 2, Stephanie Tatum 0, Shayna Duncan 10	FG 11 (4), FT 6-8, F 15			
Valley Center—Stephanie Cheney 11, Kaylee Weichman 3, Tessa Morrow 2, Jennifer Noel 5, Schwab 10, Laura Venning 18, Lindsay Hickerson 5, Alli Klein 7, Kyle Covey 3, Traci Doty 4	FG 27 (6), FT 8-12, F 12			

struggled offensively in the first half but at halftime, we looked up on the scoreboard and we're only down by six," said Miller. "We were still in the game despite going stale offensively. One of our big problems in the first half was turnovers. We just made too many of them. And they were the kind (of turnovers) that drive coaches crazy. They were the half-court turnovers caused by people just being sloppy with the ball. They weren't the ones caused by their pressing."

Mulvane was able to hang around, Miller said, because the Wildcats controlled the boards. Mulvane out-rebounded the El Dorado girls by six in the game. "That's only the 2nd time this year that we've out-rebounded anybody," observed Miller.

Mulvane and El Dorado battled back and forth in the 2nd half, the Cats wiping out El Dorado's 8-point lead in the 4th quarter and actually getting to within two when senior

Stephanie Tatum hit her first three-pointer of the season with less than one minute left.

El Dorado made it a three-point game by making one of two free throws with 25 seconds left but Mulvane couldn't make the shot that counted most despite getting a good look on two threes and two twos in the final 15 seconds. "We set up a shot for Shayna (Duncan) and it just rimmed out," said Miller. "We went to the boards like demons and got three more shots at it but all three of them missed."

Guard Abby Sorensen led the MHS scoring with eight points and Tara Roberts and Duncan had seven points each. Tatum and Kayla Oblinger scored four points apiece.

The loss ended the season for the Mulvane girls at 6-15.

In their final game of the regular season Thursday, Feb. 6, the Wildcats went to Valley Center and wished they hadn't. The Hornets dropped a 68-32 beating on the Mulvane girls.

It was all over in a flash. The Hornets rolled out to a 17-4 lead after one quarter and by halftime held a commanding 34-13 edge.

Sorensen topped the scoring with 14 points, Duncan had 10 and Laura Buchanan scored six points. Roberts scored two points and that was the rest of the offense.

"The Valley Center game was very disappointing," admitted Miller. "We just didn't show up. Every game is an adventure because I don't know which team is going to show up. We played hard against Buhler and Goddard (in Mulvane's previous two contests) but we didn't show up to play Thursday night. I was pretty frustrated and I know the girls were, too."

Valley wrapped up 3rd in the Chisholm Trail League and didn't let the Wildcats stand up too long. "Valley is a good team," said Miller. "If you don't show up, they're going to put you away and put you away pretty badly. We played sloppy ball and they put us away."

Chisholm Trail League

Girls Basketball Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
y-Goddard	11	1	18	2
Buhler	10	2	14	7
Valley Center	8	4	13	7
Maize	7	5	11	9
Rose Hill	2	10	9	12
Mulvane	2	10	6	15
Augusta	2	10	4	17

DIVISION II

x-Andover Central	10	2	17	4
x-Circle	10	2	17	4
Andale	9	3	13	8
Kingman	7	5	16	5
Clearwater	4	8	7	14
Wellington	2	10	7	14
Andover	0	12	2	19

x-tied for Chisholm Trail League championship; y-won Chisholm Trail League championship

Girls Sub-State Assignments

Mulvane Class 4A Sub-State--Mulvane, Rose Hill, Circle, Andover, Andover Central, Augusta, Douglass, El Dorado

Chaparral 4A Sub-State--Buhler, Clearwater, Kingman, Wellington, Andale, Chaparral, Haven, Wichita Collegiate

Campus Class 5A Sub-State--Valley Center, Arkansas City, Bishop Carroll, Campus, Winfield, Wichita West, Liberal, Kapaun Mt. Carmel

Dodge City Class 6A Sub-State--Goddard, Maize, Wichita Northwest, Wichita South, Hutchinson, Garden City, Derby, Dodge City