

Wildcats Booted Out Early By Late El Dorado Rally

The difference between winning and losing the Augusta Class 4A Girls Sub-State was a couple of miscues, nerves and a spasm. And the Mulvane Wildcat girls had them all.

That's why the Cats will be staying home this coming weekend instead of going to Salina to participate in the Class 4A Girls State Basketball Championship. For the second year in a row, El Dorado snuffed out the Mulvane State hopes in the sub-state semifinals, 46-40, Friday night, March 2.

A year ago, the Mulvane Wildcat girls were beaten, 46-33, by El Dorado. Coach Jayson Miller's Mulvane girls finished with their third consecutive 10-12 record despite coming into the Augusta Sub-State with the No. 1 seed.

The victory, coupled with El Dorado's 40-33 verdict over Circle in Saturday night's championship game, earned El Dorado's Wildcats a trip to the State tournament for the second year in a row. El Dorado (8-15) will meet No. 1 seeded and undefeated Marysville (23-0) in the opening game at Salina at 3 p.m. today (March 8).

"We didn't play well early in the game, we shot the ball like we were nervous," said Miller. "I thought we were in good shape, though, late in the game after playing our best ball early in the 4th quarter to wipe out an El Dorado lead but we made two turnovers in a row and that took us from four points up to one point down."

And the "spasm?" Mulvane's No. 1 player the last two years, junior center LaShelle Parker, wasn't full speed after suf-

fering from back spasms since a collision a week ago in the Maize game. "LaShelle got hit in the lower back by a Maize girl and pinched a nerve," said Miller. "It tightens up when she moves. We did everything we could do to get it under control but it was just tough for her. She was playing at about 70%. We held her out against Douglass, hoping it would help because she really wanted to be up for this game."

And midway in the 4th quarter, Mulvane appeared headed to Salina, wiping out a six-point El Dorado lead and taking a four-point edge over the Ark Valley team. But then, the roof caved in. "In a span of about 20 seconds, we went from four up to one down," said Miller. "And just before that, we had one of our senior leaders, Jackie Burkhart, foul out. All of that was just too much for us to overcome. We made a couple of turnovers and after the first one, they went down and hit a lay-up, then they went down and hit a basket and a free throw off

the second one."

Mulvane's hopes faded. They had held a 36-32 lead with about three minutes left until that time. Led by that five-point charge, the El Dorado Wildcats out-scored Mulvane, 14-4, the rest of the way.

"Going into the game, we felt like we had the better team," said Miller. "We felt we had a better inside game, that we were a lot stronger inside than they were, but hats off to them. They got it done, but as a program, we're not going to forget this one for a while. It was nobody's fault. We just didn't get it done against them inside. When you need to get that little extra, somebody needs to step up and give it. You have to find a way and we didn't. That happens, you just hate to see it happen in this kind of situation."

Little guard Melissa Doerfer powered up the Mulvane offense, scoring 11 points. Kris Lazar finished with eight points, Parker scored seven and both Sami Booth and Burkhart finished with six points.

Augusta Class 4A Girls Sub-State Results CHAMPIONSHIP

El Dorado girls 40, Circle 33

SEMIFINALS

El Dorado girls	8	9	9	20-46
Mulvane girls	6	8	10	16-40

El Dorado—Staci Stewart 11, Chelsey Foosehee 5, Laurie Marshall 4, Julie Burns 10, Erica Hamilton 7, Caleigh Cost 4, Megan Murry 5. FG 12 (1), FT 21-35, F 24.

Mulvane—Jackie Burkhart 6, Sami Booth 6, Kris Lazar 8, LaShelle Parker 7, Melissa Doerfer 11, Nicole Hackley 2. FG 13 (0), FT 14-25, F 27.

Circle girls 41, Wellington girls 37

Augusta Class 4A Boys Sub-State Results CHAMPIONSHIP

El Dorado 69, Wellington 42

SEMIFINALS

El Dorado 70, Douglass 50
Wellington 50, Circle 48

The Cats and El Dorado's Cats played stride-for-stride, shot for shot through the first half but it wasn't pretty. "Neither team shot the ball well in the first half but it was close all the way," said Miller. "If we could have hit some of the easy shots we had early in the game, we would have pulled away but we didn't."

The MHS girls shot only 21% for the game (13 out of 63) and El Dorado was even worse, hitting 20% (12 of 60 field attempts).

El Dorado also nailed buckets at the buzzer at the end of both the first and second quarters to keep ahead of the MHS Cats. The score was 8-6 after one quarter and El Dorado barely held on with another buzzer-beater at half for a 17-14 lead.

"That second one was pretty important because it was a big momentum swing for them," said Miller. "They showed that by coming out in the third quarter and going up by eight points before we battled back. At halftime, we talked about calming down, getting easier looks inside and hitting the shots. We started doing that in the 4th quarter. We scored on four possessions in a row to get the lead and get some momentum for ourselves."

All that momentum went up in smoke with the two turnovers coming right after Burkhart fouled out.

Mulvane also won the battle of the glass with 36 rebounds to only 25 for El Dorado. Lazar had nine boards and Parker, Doerfer and Burkhart pulled down six apiece. Mulvane gave that advantage away, though, by having 23 turnovers to 18 for El Dorado.

Chisholm Trail League Girls Basketball Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
xy-Buhler	11	1	21	1
Valley Center	10	2	15	7
y-Goddard	9	3	19	3
Maize	6	6	10	12
Mulvane	4	8	10	12
Andover	1	11	4	15
Augusta	1	11	3	18

DIVISION II

xy-Andale	10	0	18	4
Kingman	7	3	12	9
Wellington	4	6	8	14
Circle	5	5	11	12
Rose Hill	2	8	6	15
Clearwater	1	9	2	19

x--clinched CTL championship; y--in State Tournament field.