

El Dorado Clips Cats; No More Shaved Heads

All the shaved heads in the world couldn't keep El Dorado's savvy Wildcats from clipping the Mulvane High School girls Thursday night, March 2, in the semifinial round of the El Dorado Class 4A Girls Sub-State.

El Dorado pressured the Mulvane Wildcats the whole game, stepped up the tempo in the second half and took advantage of a scoring lull in the third quarter to put the Cats away, then coasted in the final quarter to a 48-33 victory. Chaparral upended Augusta, 55-47, in the other girls semifinial, and in the championship game Saturday night, March 4, El Dorado marched into the Class 4A State Tournament by pulling out a 52-45 decision over Chappy.

El Dorado (10-13) was to have played Labette County (21-2) in the State's first round Wednesday, March 8, at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. El Dorado's Wildcats are coached by former Mulvane High coach Kelly Dennis.

El Dorado charged into control against the MHS girls late in the third quarter with an 8-0 run, pushing its lead into double digits and Coach Jayson Miller's Wildcats never recovered.

"We just came out stagnant in the third quarter and they made a little run to take a nice lead on us," said Miller, whose Wildcats ended their season at 10-12. "We weren't taking great shots but they were hitting them and we couldn't make our shots. That's basketball. They got hot and we got cold and suddenly, we had dug a 14-16-point hole for ourselves. It was too much for us to overcome."

El Dorado won the game by pressuring the Wildcats the whole game, causing turnovers; by picking up the tempo and

beating Mulvane down the floor; but more importantly, El Dorado tied up the inside tighter than a drum. The Cats' inside game turned suddenly silent. Mulvane's top scorer, sophomore LaShelle Parker, was held to only one bucket and Kris Lazar, another key inside player who had been slowed by injuries late in the year, failed to score.

That put the pressure on the Cat outside game. Sophomore Sami Booth responded with another fine game, scoring 13 points and freshman guard, Melissa Doerfer, finished with eight points. Junior guard Natalie Turner scored three and Jackie Burkhart had two points. Mulvane's only other points came from senior Ann Leonard, who had five points.

"El Dorado really did a good job of taking away the middle," said Miller, "especially in the first half. We were ahead for a while early but we were ahead because we were getting transition baskets and penetration. They figured things out and stopped our transition game. In the second half, they started beating us in transition. They were trying to get the ball down the floor quickly and that hurt us a lot. I felt like we matched up with them pretty good except for No. 23 (Jacquelyn Paetzold). We did a poor job of getting back in that quarter and that's when we started getting frustrated. That's when they went on their run and the next thing you know, you're in a world of hurt."

The MHS girls came out of the locker room at the start of the game with fire in their eyes, an underdog wanting to set the record straight. Mulvane popped out to a six-point lead but El Dorado was only staggered, not knocked out. By the end of the first quarter, the Ark Valley team had regained its composure and the lead. By intermission, it was still anybody's game after Booth hit a basket and a free throw for a traditional three-pointer to make it 16-13. El Dorado took charge, though, by out-scoring the Wildcats, 19-9, in the third quarter.

"In the first half, we came out quickly and got the lead," said Miller. "I thought our girls came out ready to play. Coach (Dale) Landes made a good observation when he said that we became tentative after we got the early

El Dorado Class 4A Girls Sub-State Tournament

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane	6	7	9	11-33
El Dorado	10	6	19	13-48

Mulvane - Ann Leonard 5, Sami Booth 13, LaShelle Parker 2, Melissa Doerfer 8, Jackie Burkhart 2, Natalie Turner 3. FG 12 (2), FT 7-18, F 24.
El Dorado - Jacquelyn Paetzold 13, Erica Hamilton 1, Katie Squires 6, Julie Burns 16, Laurie Marshall 5, Holly Hanes 7. FG 17 (10), FT 14 (26), F 19.
Chaparral 55, Augusta 47.

CHAMPIONSHIP

El Dorado 52, Chaparral 45

momentum. I think he was correct. We didn't jump on them good enough. It might have been a different ball game if we had."

Even at intermission, Miller said he felt the Cats had regained the momentum a bit. "We came back toward the end of the first half to get within three and I felt good about the game because I thought we had the momentum back on our side," stressed Miller. "At halftime, we talked about doing a better job against their pressure and we also wanted to do a better job on the boards."

That talk never got past the "talk" stage and the El Dorado Wildcats started their march to the top.

"I was proud of the kids because they battled the whole game but it just wasn't our night," pointed out Miller. "You have to give them credit. They're going to State. I thought we should have done a better job on their press because we've seen a lot better presses this year but in reality, the things that count are the things that are out on the floor. There was a lot riding on the outcome of the game and I think our youth betrayed us a little in that respect. In the back of a player's head, there is always the thought about what is riding on the game. El Dorado picked off two teams that were seeded above them and they are going on."

Miller was happy the Mulvane offensive generated outside but felt El Dorado's smothering defense helped block the Mulvane scoring in the paint. "Our guards did a nice job but we never could get out inside game going because they were doubling down on LaShelle the whole game," said Miller. "The weakside person was doubling on her the whole game and that just took her away from the offensive end. The Paetzold girl (a 5-11 senior) really dominated the glass and was a real tough match-up for us inside. LaShelle loves the game and loves working for it but she still has some learning to do. When she gets that, she'll even help us more."

Down the stretch, the MHS girls couldn't get anything going. Every basket was matched by an El Dorado basket.

"Our seniors wanted to go out on more of a positive note but I told them afterwards that they had made so much progress this season," said Miller. "To start out 1-4 and end up winning third in the league and accomplishing a couple big wins at the end of the year was a great accomplishment. Nobody thought it would have happened but it did. We've had a good year."

Mulvane's girls finished the year on a fast track. The Cats won three of their last four Chisholm Trail League games to finish third with a 7-5 record and one of those victories was a 44-39 victory over Kingman, one of the eight teams that qualified for the Class 4A State Championship. And the Cats earned a first round home game in the sub state

Chisholm Trail League Girls Basketball Standings

DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x-Andale	11	1	17	5
z-Kingman	9	3	17	6
Mulvane	7	5	10	12
Chaparral	6	6	11	11
Circle	5	7	6	15
Rose Hill	2	10	5	16
Clearwater	2	10	3	18

DIVISION I

x-Buhler	11	1	21	1
Goddard	10	2	18	4
Valley Center	7	5	12	9
Maize	7	5	10	11
Andover	5	7	11	10
Augusta	1	11	7	15
Wellington	1	11	5	16

x - won CTL championships; z - qualified for State tournaments

El Dorado Class 4A Boys Sub-State Tournament

CHAMPIONSHIP

El Dorado 56, Circle 47

SEMIFINALS

El Dorado 50, Augusta 44
Circle 62, Douglass 54 (OT)