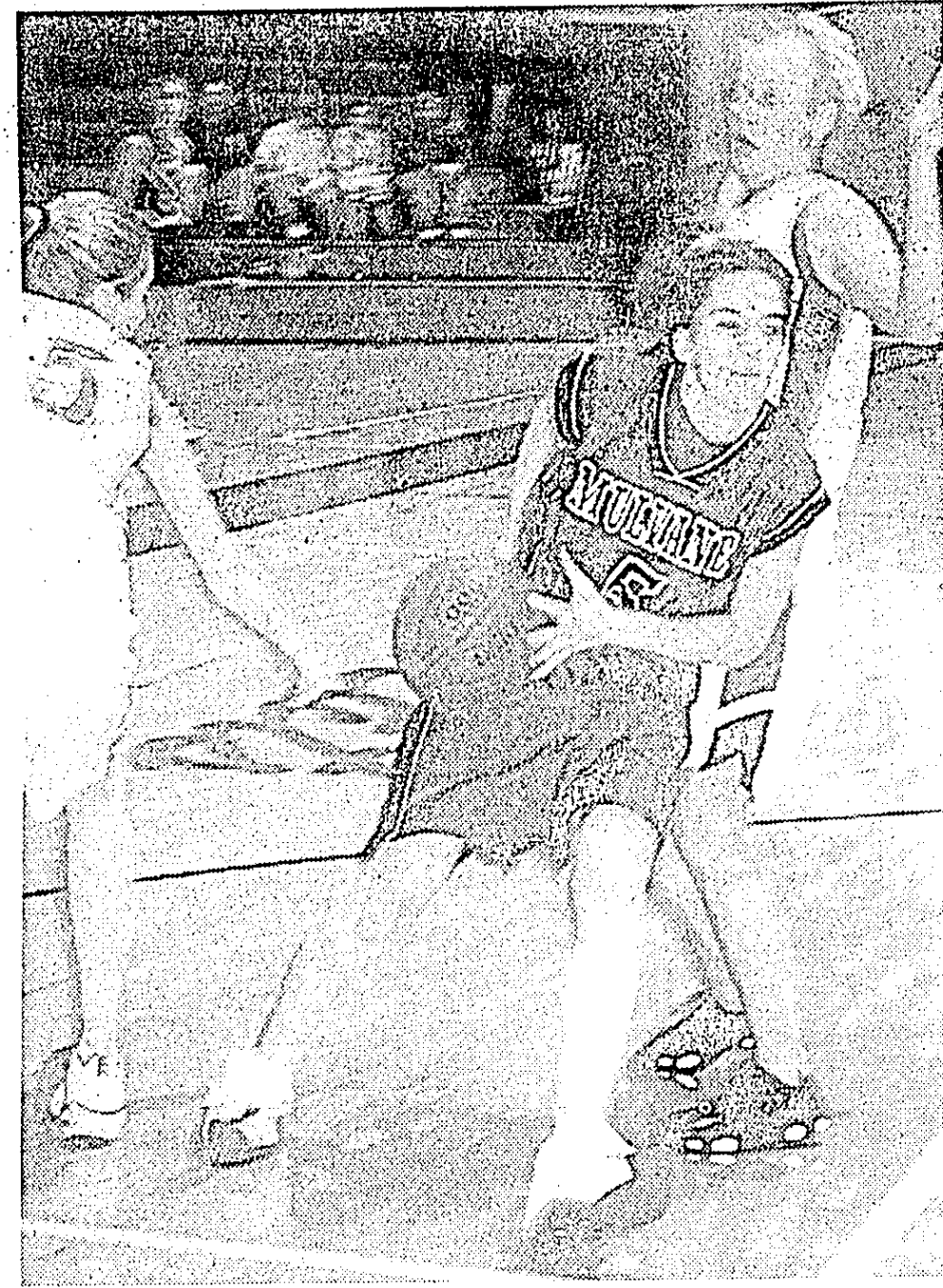


The 3rd Quarter Blues



Mulvane senior Melissa Doerfer (5) drives to the bucket against El Dorado

Lack Of Consistency Slowed MHS Girls

The season for Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller boils down to one simple story line

No consistency

"We just never were able to get a lot of consistency, especially on offense," said Miller, whose Wildcats closed their season at 5-16 in the first game at sub-state. "It was never more evident than the sub-state game we played last week. Three of our girls scored 36 of our 40 points."

"That's one thing that hurt us in that game as well as all season," added Miller as he concluded his fifth season. "We need to develop some more well-rounded scoring. As the season progressed, we made some progress in that direction but not enough."

Miller's top two scorers, senior guard Melissa Doerfer and junior frontliner Shayna Duncan, were both in double figures and were consistent. Doerfer, a four-year starter, topped the team with 228 points. Duncan scored 213 points. Sophomore guard Abby Sorensen finished with 122 points, followed by Stephanie Tatum with 60 points, Whitney Becker with 54, Tara Roberts with 47 and senior Kayla Linnebur with 43. Kayla Oblinger had 34 points.

"When you finish 5-16, first instinct is that you're a little disappointed, but with the talent we had, the girls all worked hard and we did make some improvements," said Miller. "My mind set is already on what we need to do and build on next year to get better."

But he'll have to do that with his top scorer gone. As a team, the Cats averaged 40.1 points a game and their opponents averaged 50.6.

"We ran our offense better down the stretch," said Miller. "From the last Rose Hill game on to the last game, I felt we were more in control of our offense and it helped us stay in games with people."

Final Basketball Statistics

MULVANE WILDCAT GIRLS (5-16)						
Player	FG	FGA	FT	FTTA	RB	Pts.
Melissa Doerfer	85	270	46	67	61	228
Shayna Duncan	97	220	19	32	127	213
Abby Sorensen	46	185	21	31	48	122
Stephanie Tatum	26	99	7	11	62	60
Whitney Becker	19	56	16	24	47	54
Lara Roberts	19	69	8	13	32	47
Kayla Linnebur	19	67	2	7	58	43
Kayla Oblinger	16	71	2	7	43	34
Lacie Leatherman	8	38	3	6	22	19
Laura Buchanan	7	23	5	10	18	19
Others	2	6	0	2	2	4
Totals	344	1104	132	230	520	843
	(.312)	(.574)	24.8	40.1		
Opponents	—	—	—	—	1063	
	—	—	—	—	50.6	

Defensively, Miller wasn't totally satisfied. "I felt like we played better defense this year than last year but we still have a ways to go," said the Cat coach. "We did pick up better when we played either the zone or man-to-man and I'm hoping the girls can see that and take it into the next year and grow from there. We had to have an awful lot of reviewing this year because we were young. I hope we don't have that next year."

Miller's also hoping rebounding takes care of it's self with more size. "We were small this year and we were not only smaller than most teams but less athletic," offered Miller.

Most teams have at least one or two girls 5-9 or above and a near 6-footer. At 5-9, Duncan was the only size Mulvane had to offer until freshman Laura Buchanan (5-10) got into the game. Duncan led the team with 127 boards. Tatum nosed out Doerfer as the No. 2 rebounder on the team. She had 62 caroms to 61 for Doerfer.

Sorensen led the team in assists with 64 during the game. Doerfer had 58 and Tatum had 32 assists. Sorensen also had 53 steals, a team-high figure.

Oh, those third quarters. It's getting so Jayson Miller hates them.

And with good reason. The 3rd quarter has been something of a nemesis for the Mulvane High School girls this season and the Wildcats added to that string of 3rd quarter woes Wednesday, March 5, in the opening round of the Douglass Class 4A Sub-State. Playing at No. 4 seeded El Dorado, the Wildcats charged to a 24-18 halftime lead, then had to play the 3rd quarter. El Dorado's Wildcats ended up advancing to the host site by holding off Mulvane in the last half for a 46-40 victory that ended the season for Miller's Wildcats.

The loss left Mulvane with a 5-16 record and El Dorado advanced to the sub-state semifinal round. The game was to have been played Tuesday, March 4, but was postponed a night because of an ice storm.

"We played really well and really hard and had a great first half, but we came out in the third quarter and they were hot and we couldn't turn them off," emphasized Miller. "I don't know what it is about 3rd quarters because we really played poorly in the 3rd quarter of a lot of our games. El Dorado came out and scored three straight baskets to tie the game up quickly after the half and we just didn't get it done."

It didn't take long for El Dorado to know the score at 24-24 because Mulvane went scoreless the first four minutes of the period and finished on the low end of a 13-3 streak by the host Wildcats.

"In the 3rd quarter, they came out and were 10 times more aggressive than they were in the first half and I didn't think we adjusted to that," said the Wildcat Coach. "We kind of backed off when they started playing more physical. We had a few turnovers and our defense lapsed a little. I just think we came out (from intermission) a little comfortable and they came out intense."

A three by Melissa Doerfer stopped a 6-0 El Dorado run but couldn't stem the tide of intensity that swept away the Wildcats. The Cats hung in there the rest of the way but El Dorado pulled away at the free throw line, hitting seven free throws down the stretch. El Dorado ended up shooting 19 free throws and Mulvane shot five.

"I was real pleased with 'Dori,'" said Miller. "She put the whole team on her back and was hitting everything in the first quarter. And her scoring late gave us a chance to stay in the game."

The senior guard ended her career with a 19-point effort. Junior Shayna Duncan fin-

Douglass 4A Girls Sub-State Results

CHAMPIONSHIP

Circle 56, Andover Central 50

SEMIFINALS

Andover Central 48, El Dorado 44

Circle 60, Douglass 44

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 15 9 3 13-40

El Dorado 8 10 13 15-46

Mulvane - Melissa Doerfer 19, Laura Buchanan 7,

Shayna Duncan 10, Tara Roberts 2, Abby Sorensen 2,

FG 18 (1), FT 3-5, F 13

El Dorado - Kristina Jones 10, Brooke DeMo 12,

Caleygh Cost 8, Staci Stewart 5, Kera Bender 7,

Katherine Ward 3, Libby Connell 1, FG 17 (1), FT 11-

19, F 9

Andover Central 63, Andover 24

Circle 63, Council Grove 48

Douglass 47, Rose Hill 43

Junior Varsity Girls

Valley Center 7 6 8 7-32

Mulvane 7 6 4 9-26

Valley Center - Kern 4, Mullins 4, McCormick 4,

Hickerson 8, Cheney 2, Youkam 2, Noel 8, FG 13 (2),

FT 4-6, F 17

Mulvane - Kristen Buchanan 14, Natasha Parman 2,

Stephanie Tatum 2, Kayla Oblinger 4, Shayna Duncan 2,

Lara Roberts 2, FG 11 (0), FT 4-9, F 16

Goddard 11 3 14 11-39

Mulvane 4 10 11 7-32

Goddard - Maygan Clasen 12, Taylor Romack 2, Kara

Becker 1, Nicole Mercer 7, Sarah Schrader 4, Caitlin

Eisenbauer 3, Whitney Millward 6, Elizabeth Friesen 2,

Shana Stanton 2, FG 15 (2), FT 7-25, F 17

Mulvane - Tara Roberts 12, Josey Gosch 1, Whitney

Becker 5, Natasha Parman 4, Kristen Buchanan 6,

Shayna Duncan 4, FG 13 (0), FT 3-10, F 23

Mulvane 9 11 9 12-42

Buhler 21 7 10 12-50

Mulvane - Natasha Parman 10, Kayla Oblinger 4,

Kristen Buchanan 5, Tara Roberts 9, Nicole Pierce 2,

Julie Miner 4, Jessica Brock 2, Jessica Martin 2,

Stephanie Tatum 5, FG 18 (2), FT 5-9, F 14

Buhler - Tiffany Sellers 1, Renae Cikane 9, Courtney

Brax 3, Jesse Faulkner 6, Brooke Cameron 13, Stephanie

Beardslee 2, Anya Brown 5, Sabrina Manderville 9,

Sara Unruh 2, FG 19 (5), FT 7-15, F 16

Mulvane 9 10 5 6-30

Maize 13 11 16 11-53

Mulvane - Jessica Martin 2, Josey Gosch 3, Kristen

Buchanan 3, Heather Richards 2, Jessica Brock 1,

Shayna Duncan 2, Whitney Becker 4, Abby Sorensen 3,

Natasha Parman 4, Stephanie Tatum 4, Megan Turner 2,

FG 12 (0), FT 6-11, F 3

Maize - Bush 2, Monhey 8, Schellenberg 17, Cisco 4,

Knaus 2, Wenword 8, Posenden 5, Boyd 2, Brucks 2,

Hinckley 1, FG 21 (8), FT 1-3, F 12

ished with 10 points and freshman Laura Buchanan, who saw her most extensive action of the season, hit for seven points.

"We made a run back at them in the 4th quarter to get it back to one point but then we turned the ball over three straight times," said Miller. "We just made some sloppy entry passes in the second half and those hurt us. It's tough when you're trying to get back in the game and don't even get a shot off because of unforced errors."