

# Cat Defense Goes up In Smoke; Valley Center Lights The Fire

All that work by the Mulvane High School basketball girls on defense in the pre-season and first two weeks of the season went up in smoke.

Valley Center lit the fuse Friday night, Dec. 15, and watched the visiting Wildcats do a slow burn on defense as the Hornets tore up the Cats, 67-47, in a Chisholm Trail League Division I game.

The loss ended the best start in more than 20 years by the Mulvane girls and gave Coach Jayson Miller's club its first setback after three victories.

"We just didn't play very well at all," said Miller. "That's going to happen sometimes, but I really felt like we were ready for the game, ready to play them. When things started, though, we were not very good on defense and that hurt us a lot. It was like everybody together having a bad night on defense. You have to guard the ball, otherwise you're in trouble."

Trouble came knocking late in the first quarter. The Cats lagged behind by only six or eight points but a reserve guard came off the bench for the Hornets and buried back-

to-back three-pointers, igniting the hosts and sending the Wildcats on the run.

"It threw us for a loop and we didn't handle it very well," admitted Miller. "We were off balance the rest of the way."

The Hornets never looked back as they sprinted out to a 17-8 lead after one period. Mulvane lost more ground in the 2nd quarter and Valley put the game away in the 3rd quarter by out-scoring Mulvane, 15-6.

"We also got out of our tempo on offense," said Miller. "The girls finally slowed down and ran some things that are going to make us successful but playing at the pace they played at earlier was Valley Center's type game. That got us into trouble. I know the girls became frustrated because they didn't handle things defensively. Too, Valley Center has a big team and they just manhandled us off the boards. We didn't block out very good and that just accentuated our lack of size against their size."

Miller can call on junior LaShelle Parker, who is 6-foot-1, and Kris Lazar at 5-8 and Andrea Valerio at 5-10, but the

## Varsity Girls

Mulvane	8	15	6	18-47
Valley Center	17	22	15	13-67
Mulvane—Kris Lazar 9, LaShelle Parker 15, Kari Leonard 2, Melissa Doerfer 4, Jackie Burkhart 4, Andrea Valerio 3, Sami Booth 11. FG 16 (1), FT 14-26, F 19.				
Valley Center—Crystal White 7, Kasey Porter 12, Joanne Fluker 2, Janelle Klein 15, J.J. McVay 4, Karah Covey 14, Courtney Smith 2, Kristen Welk 7, Amy Doly 4. FG 24 (6), FT 13-24, F 21.				

## Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	2	10	4	6-22
Valley Center	5	15	7	14-41
Mulvane—Michelle Dinkel 2, Emily Turner 3, Shayna Duncan 8, Lacie Leatherman 4, Cristen Richards 2, Janie Wilkinson 3. FG 8 (0), FT 6-12, F 11.				
Valley Center—Jamie Thompson 2, 3, Megan McGee 4, Adrienne Lee 2, Courtney Smith 2, Joanne Fluker 18, Janelle Klein 6, Jessica Tittsworth 2, Jamie Barry 2, Megan Bushell 2. FG 18, FT 5-9, F 15.				

Hornets fielded four players 5-10 or taller. "They were getting the boards over us and putting it back in," said Miller. "We got into a little foul trouble with a couple of our rebounders and it made things even more difficult to hang in there."

Offensively, Miller wasn't too unhappy with 47 points. "That's the most points we have scored all year long," said Miller. "If

someone would have told me that we would score 47 points at Valley Center, I would have thought we would win the game, too. I never dreamed we would give up 67 points the way we were playing defense. Our girls have really taken pride in our defensive play. I know they felt pretty bad about our defensive effort...and I did too. I think we're a lot better defensive team than we showed."

Parker finished strong with 15 points, Sami Booth found double figures with 11 and Lazar dropped in nine. Guards Jackie Burkhart and Melissa Doerfer finished with four apiece.

The Hornets also iced the Cats in the junior varsity game. The Hornets won the battle every quarter in a 41-22 game.

Freshman Shayna Duncan had eight points to pace the MHS jayvee girls. Emily Turner and Janie Wilkinson had three each and Lacie Leatherman scored four.

The girls will have their home opener for the year Friday night, Dec. 22, the final day before the Christmas Break at MHS. Augusta will be in town for another Chisholm Trail League Division I game.



Mulvane junior Kari Leonard makes a steal and heads for a lay-up against Valley