

# Injuries Costly To Cat BB Girls; Headed For Healing Christmas

There could be more "Witch Doctors" than players running around the Mulvane High School girls practices over the Christmas holiday break.

New MHS girls coach Jayson Miller just wants to see his team. You can't blame him, either. With numerous starters bothered by nagging injuries, the Cat girls have struggled in the early season despite having four starters returning for the season.

Trouble is, they've seen more time with the whirlpool operator than they have with Miller.

The latest episode came Friday night, Dec. 18, as the Wildcats were trying to put a cheery note to the holidays coming up. It didn't happen as Chaparral jumped ahead early and never let up as the Roadrunners dumped the Wildcats, 49-36, in front of the home folks.

The loss dropped the Wildcat girls to 2-3 for the season. No doubt Miller was hoping for something a little better considering all five games were at home.

"It was a tough loss to take at home and especially since it was our first conference game," stated Miller. "Our biggest problem is that we just have to get healthy. Because of our injury situation, we've had to throw some people into the set in big rolls before they're ready for it. I still have yet to see my complete team."

Veteran guard Lindsay Kendrick, a three-year starter, missed the game with an ankle injury. Veteran forward Kassie

Hargrove, who has been silenced most of the season with ankle and shin problems, got to play but she re-injured her ankle, and another returning starter, guard Jackie McColpin, played but has been slowed by an ankle injury, too.

"I felt like we played hard against Chaparral, but the injuries have really mounted up and they've hit us hard both on the court and off the court. On the court because we're not getting time from our regulars and off the floor because we're having to put some kids in who aren't quite ready."

Chappy wasted little time in getting itself established, rolling out to a 14-10 lead after the first quarter. The Roadrunners stretched out their lead the next two quarters into double digits before the Cats got back within six, 36-30.

"We got a little run on them early in the fourth quarter and I thought that was going to be our big move but we couldn't get any closer because we couldn't get our shots to go down," said Miller. "It was pretty frustrating. We had to foul to stop the clock but we couldn't take up the slack by getting a score. The girls were getting good look, but the ball wouldn't stay in the basket. The girls were doing what I wanted them to do but the shots just didn't fall when we needed them."

With his top two guards out, the offense struggled for continuity. "Offensively, we'll have to be a lot better to win games and I think we will when we get our people all back," said Miller. "We also had the people we count on to get it done scoring, Shelley Richards and Kristin Buchanan, get into foul trouble and that hurt us late. It's just not going to happen if you have to throw your younger kids in there in scoring situations."

Coach Miller isn't sure why the Wildcats are struggling with injuries. He does know that leads to problems on a team that is trying to develop depth. "I'm not worried about our record as much as the way we're playing right now," said Miller. "Hats off to Chaparral. They have some youth in there and they're playing well. I'm more concerned about us coming together more and starting to play as a team. We have to find our niche out there together.

"Injuries are something you never plan

## Varsity Girls

Chaparral	14	14	7	14-49
Mulvane	10	12	5	9-36
Chaparral—Troyer 2, Emily Misak 10, Latta 7, Wyssman 9, Cullop 10, Kastler 3, Kara Kastens 4, Shirk 4. FG 18 (0), FT 13-34, F 20.				
Mulvane—Jackie Burkhan 1, Arin Leonard 8, Shiriah Craft 6, Shelley Richards 9, Kristin Buchanan 7, Kassie Hargrove 2, Andrea Valero 2, Natalie Turner 1. FG 13 (0), FT 10-17, F 26.				

## Junior Varsity Girls

Chaparral	1	9	11	14-35
Mulvane	6	8	4	3-21
Chaparral—Dunn 2, Brown 3, Intsee 4, Shirk 1, Schaffer 2, Kastler 9, Stevens 7, A Masack 2, Jelinek 3, Sneary 1, Hoover 1. FG 13 (0), FT 9-22, F 18.				
Mulvane—Andrea Valerio 2, Katie Bagby 6, Sarah Carmichael 2, Carisa Ward 2, Aubrey Benjamin 1, Kris Lazar 2, LaShelle Parker 2, Danielle Vanderhoof 2, Cindy Hanley 2. FG 8 (0), FT 5-12, F 23.				

for and never know when you'll have them," added Miller. "As the coach, you know you're going to get your share but it is usually dispersed over time and dispersed over the season. The league we play in is a tough one and we'll just have to find a way to come out and challenge these teams every night."

Even the Wildcat defense is struggling under the burden. "We've had a lot of people who have stepped up and I've been really proud of the effort we're getting from the girls, but we're just not getting it done at in the defensive end. We're almost there but we're not quite there. I just don't like giving up that many points. We've had a couple teams do some things that we're not ready for but I think we'll get those situations figured out. Once we do, we'll be a pretty solid team defensively."

It was the offense that never could get untracked against Chappy, who boosted its record to 4-0. The Cats slumped to only 14 points in the second half and with their leading scorer sitting on the bench in street clothes (Kendrick), Mulvane didn't have a double figure scorer. Richards finished with nine points, Arin Leonard scored eight points and Buchanan had seven. Shiriah Craft stepped in for a six-point night.

The Mulvane junior varsity also had its troubles offensively as the Chaparral JVs rallied from behind behind, 9-1, in the first quarter to a 35-21 triumph over the Cats.

Katie Bagby had six points to pace the Wildcat jayvees and was the only player with more than one bucket.

## Chisholm Trail League Girls Basketball Standings

### DIVISION II

#### LEAGUE OVERALL

Team	W	L	W	L
Circle	1	0	5	0
Andale	1	0	5	1
Chaparral	1	0	4	1
Kingman	0	0	1	3
Rose Hill	0	1	3	3
Mulvane	0	1	2	3
Clearwater	0	1	1	3

### DIVISION I

Buhler	1	0	4	1
Augusta	1	0	3	1
Maize	1	0	3	1
Goddard	0	0	3	0
Andover	0	1	3	1
Wellington	0	1	1	4
Valley Center	0	1	0	5

#### Next Week's Games

No games scheduled, Christmas Break. Next games.