

SPORTS

Lady Panthers cruise to playoffs in high gear

M.D. 'Doc' Smith
news@bullardnews.com

The Lady Panthers just wanted you to remember the last game of the year in their new gym with some added excitement in their final home game with a 3-0 win over Gilmer last Tuesday night at Panther gymnasium.

The Lady Panthers (21-7; 8-2), celebrated 'Senior Night', blasting through two wins, before turning around an eight-point deficit to win a third game marathon, 28-26 to earn the district finale.

After sweeping the first two games over Gilmer, the Bullard Lady Panthers found themselves with a test for game three. The comeback for the sweep may hopefully be a springboard for upcoming playoffs according to head coach, Kala Laningham.

"The final game we let up at the first of the match, and we all pulled together and made a great run that I hope the girls can turn that into some positive confidence for the playoffs," the Bullard second-year head coach began.

In a pre-game presentation, Bullard began the night honoring Wyoming-bound, Calli Miller and Angela Hill, the two lone seniors and their fam-

ilies with roses, gifts and crowns for their senior 'Queens.'

The duo showed their appreciation with huge roles in the Lady Panther wins of 25-17, 25-9, and 28-26.

Game one started with a 3-0 Bullard run and it was never any closer through out the first match.

Ariel Hamby served up and made back-to-back service points as Bullard took their biggest lead at 25-10.

Gilmer jumped out 3-0 in game two, but it was all Bullard after they tied the game 3-3, on a 'Mill-Kill' by captain Calli Miller. Another 'Mill-Kill' spread the later lead to 17-7, while Valarie Roberts, and Elisia Coleman added in point-spunkings to the Lady Buckeyes as Bullard cruised 25-9.

The third game was paced by Gilmer from the onset and Bullard stayed within striking distance. The game was tied at 9-9, and then again at 23-23, when the rest of the game included another tie at 24-, a lead change before 26-, and Hamby stepped to the service line for Bullard once again.

Hamby was dead-on with her service spot calls from Coach Laningham from the bench, while Miller, Roberts

and Coleman took turns banging out the game-winning bombs for the 28-26, extended game-ender.

"I was really proud of the way the girls pulled together in that third game and turned it around and in to a win," said Laningham after the game. "The fight and intensity just turned up a notch and they knew they could do it if they played their game and attacked the way they are capable. It was a really fun thing to watch, and I was so proud of them for sticking with it the way they did."

"We had another night of great individual efforts by Calli (Miller), Valarie (Roberts), Elisia ('Nikki') Coleman, Angela (Hill), Brittany (Glover), and Madison Moore with five assists, seven digs, one service ace. Ariel Hamby played a good all-round game for us too."

Hamby finished with two kills, eight service points, one block and a dink, rounding out the all-round team victory.

Bullard's first-year setter, Heather Camp made 31 assists in the game, giving the junior 529 assists on the season thus far.

Adding to the Lady Buckeyes woes were Valarie Roberts pounding out 12 kills,



Photo by Doc Smith

Ariel Hamby (right) and Calli Miller (left) go up for to make a combined block over Gilmer in the win of the final home game last Tuesday. For the game story on the Tuesday bi-district playoff game against Rusk see next week's edition of the Bullard Banner Sports.

with 22 digs and five service aces for Bullard. Elisia Coleman added another 13 digs to go with six kills to aid in the win.

Laningham continued about her first year setter, and said that according to some pre-season reports, setting was going to be a big problem for the Lady Panthers this season.

"Heather (Camp), for a first year setter to have 529 for the year is just amazing," the mentor added," but she has really stepped up and done a

great job of distributing the ball to where the plays are called, and I hope those pre-season reports give her the just due deserved."

Ditto.....coach!

The Lady Panthers were led by the two seniors as usual by Miller with 15 kills, 11 digs, three service aces and two solo blocks. Hill made 12 points from service, adding in 11 digs, four kills and two aces.

Gilmer (14-28; 4-6), ends their playoff hopes with the loss.

Bullard won the junior varsity game 2-1, by scores of 23-25, 25-12, and 25-9. The Lady Panthers swept the freshmen game in two games, 25-12, and 25-22.

The bi-district scenario came down to Rusk beating Huntington for third-place in District 18-3A play last Tuesday night. The bi-district game was played at Lon Morris College, on Tuesday night. For game results, see the next issue of the Bullard Banner News.

Applaud your Lady Panther Seniors



Calli (Miss Do-It) Miller, Senior, Outside Hitter

Calli is gonna be a Laramie Cowgirl next fall, playing volleyball and studying pre-med at the Division I level for the University of Wyoming. Calli leads the Lady Panthers team in three categories thus far, with the playoffs still in the making. Miller has served out 65 aces, pounded out 392 kills, and made 104 total blocks this season alone. The Big West conference-bound spiker also hustled out 314 digs and was named to the Carthage Tournament Invitational All-Tournament team earlier this year. Strong-willed and determined to achieve all that she can, she

finds a way to do it thus the nickname, "Miss Do-It." Her favorite memory of Bullard volleyball she said is coming in the playoffs but most recently hit the floor laughing with teammates, as Elisia 'Nikki' Coleman took a volleyball spike facial. Coleman joined in the laughter as well after wiping the ball logo off her forehead. Miller's words of advice to her team are "to never play for your parents or the fans and play for your teammates and give them all you got when you step on the court. Calli is the daughter of Kevin and Linda Miller. We are gonna miss those Mill-Kills!

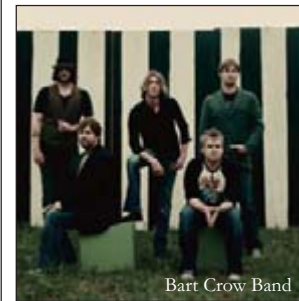


Angela (Mother Goose) Hill, Senior, Outside Hitter

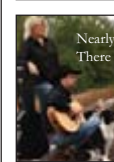
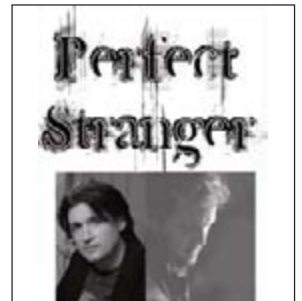
Her team members call her 'Mother Goose' because of her caring personality and the fact that she is always uplifting and positive in everything Angela does. This season Hill has recorded 12 service aces, leading Bullard in service points scored with 72, slapping around 36 kills, hoisting 86 assists, snuffing out seven blocks, and scrambling to make 127 digs. Like Miller, Hill thinks the best memories are yet to come but also remembers how much fun the team had at Jalapeno Tree after winning the Marshall Tournament this year. The

multi-talented Lady Panthers wore mustaches and PRAC-TICED karaoke. Advise for her teammates is "always push and never, ever, ever settle for less than what you deserve. Hill is the daughter of Katherine Hill and plans to attend Tyler Junior College to get a start on an accounting major and has hopes of playing for the Lady Apaches. After TJC, Hill plans on finishing the degree at North Texas University in Denton. Angela 'Mother Goose' Hill, the Lady Panthers answer to silent but deadly on the hardwood.

Bullard's 10th Annual Red, White and Blue Festival Nov. 7 - 8th



Bart Crow Band



Something for the Entire Family
Parade starts 10 a.m. with Giant Car and tractor Show, Miss Red White and Blue, Veteran Recognition, Carnival, Food, Stars Across Texas Talent Search, Children's Activities, Street Dance, Mechanical Bull, Arts and Crafts, Petting Zoo.

Music Lineup

Friday

5 p.m. Jarrett McAlister
6:30 p.m. Paul Cauthen
8 p.m. Casey Rivers
10 p.m. Bart Crow

Saturday

Grant Cook
Nearly There
5 p.m. Lauren Alexander
7 p.m. Walt Wilkins
8:30 p.m. Perfect Stranger
10:30 p.m. Johnny and the Night Crawlers

Major Sponsors



Other Sponsors

Trinity Mother Frances Health Systems
East Texas Medical Center & WRL Construction

www.bullardtexaschamber.com
903-520-9381



RANDY LYNN LISA SPOONER

Ten @ 10

Ten minutes of non-stop news and a forecast to plan your day!



Your Local News Leader