

No. 3 Madisonville ends BHS state bid

M.D. 'Doc' Smith
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HUNTSVILLE —Third-ranked Madisonville was too much to handle for the Bullard Lady Panthers, as the Lady Mustangs eliminated Bullard in the regional finals game, 64-37, at Johnson Coliseum, on the Sam Houston State University campus.

"Madisonville is a great team, and we just could not get the ball to fall for us early in the game," Bullard coach, Greg Gay said. "They just outplayed us today."

"But we had a great year and we went the farthest a Bullard team has gone since they went to five-man ball in girl's play. So, hopefully, we learned a lot from the experience. Gay added, "we are a young team, and I can't say enough about how proud I am of the girls and their efforts this season."

Tournament MVP, Lisa Nealey scored 12 of her game-high 22 points in the opening half, as Madisonville led by 17-7 after one quarter.

The Lady Mustangs (24-3) shot out to a 13-3 lead with 1:41 left in opening stanza, as Brittany Smith scored two of her 15 points in the game.

Adrianna Gilbert landed one of two 3-pointers, to build more Madisonville momentum before halftime, and her Lady Mustangs took the 31-17 halftime lead.

Gilbert also ended the third quarter in the same fashion, for a 45-27 Madisonville cushion, going in to the final eight-minutes of the year for the Bullard crew.

Bullard's Minta Spears, who was the lone Lady Panther named to the all-tournament team, came on late after the damage was done, with 17 points and two late 3-pointers.

Ashley Ricci and Samantha Phillips scored seven points each, for Bullard.

Madisonville's Brittany Smith (all-tourney) and Chasity Young, added 15 and 14 points.

No. 3 Madisonville (26-3) advances to the state tournament in Austin, where the Lady Mustangs will play at 2 or 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, at the Frank Erwin Center

on the campus of the University of Texas.

No. 12 Lady Panthers end their record-setting season, setting a new standard with a 30-9 mark, undefeated district ledger and regional tourney appearance.

**Region III Class 3A Basketball Tournament
At Johnson Coliseum,
Sam Houston State University,
Huntsville**

No. 3 Madisonville 64, No. 12 Bullard 37
Bullard 7 10 10 10 - 37
Madisonville 17 14 14 19 - 64

BULLARD – Ashley Ricci, 7; Heather Camp, 2; Samantha Phillips, 7; Minta Spears, 17; Christina Hatten, 2; Kayla Welling, 2.

MADISONVILLE – Lisa Nealey, 22; Adrianna Gilbert, 6; Unique Johnson, 1; Brittany Smith, 15; April Curtis, 4; Chasity Young, 14; Kayla Cooper, 2.

THREE POINT GOALS – B: Spears (2), Phillips. M: Gilbert (2), Smith.

RECORDS – Bullard 30-9. Madisonville 26-3.

NEXT UP – Bullard season over, Madisonville advances to UIL State Tournament, Thurs. Frank Erwin Center, Austin TX.

Lady Panthers upset Rudder for regional finals matchup

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HUNTSVILLE – The 12th ranked Bullard Lady Panthers came out smoking, behind 19 first half points, by sophomore Minta Spears, to take out No. 6 Bryan-Rudder, 59-51, in Class 3A regional action at Johnson Coliseum on the Sam Houston State University campus Friday night.

Spears finished with a game-high 23 points in the win.

Heather Camp scored her only two points, to open the game, and Samantha Phillips opened up a lead with a 3-pointer and a 13-6 lead early on, before Spears reeled off 10 points in the opening stanza and a 19-8 Bullard lead.

Rudder warmed up behind seven-points from Tori Tucker in the second period, to cut in to a 13 point Bullard lead and make it 28-20. Spears canned

six straight freethrows in the second quarter, to counter the Lady Rangers efforts, as Bullard led 32-23 at the intermission.

Rudder chipped away at the lead in the third quarter, behind eight of Marche Arneson's 15 points in the game. Three-pointers by Christina Hatten and Ally Covalt, made it 43-33, before another run by Rudder cut the lead to make it 43-41, Bullard, after three periods.

The final quarter featured ties at 43, 45, 47, 49, until senior Kayla Welling took over the game. Welling scored five of her eight points in the final stanza, but added three blocked shots, grabbed six rebounds, and drew two charging fouls, to help the Lady Panthers advance.

Madisonville beat Fairfield ,52-46, in the earlier game to set up the regional final game at 3 p.m. today.

**Region III Class 3A
Basketball Tournament
At Johnson Coliseum, Sam Houston
State University, Huntsville, TX.**
**No. 12 Bullard ,
No. 6 Bryan-Rudder**

Bullard 19 13 11 16 - 59
Rudder 8 15 18 10 - 51

BULLARD – Emmy Long, 1; Ashley Ricci, 3; Heather Camp, 2; Ally Covalt, 3; Samantha Phillips, 10; Minta Spears, 23; Ashlee Shidler, 1; Christina Hatten, 7; Kayla Welling, 9.

RUDDER – Tiara Tucker, 3; Tori Tucker, 9; Jazzlyn Roberson, 5; Taylor Tucker, 8; Lamarie Cole, 6; Marche Arneson, 15; Alycia Ayers, 2; Tyjha McGee, 2.

THREE POINT GOALS – B: Spears (4), Hatten, Covalt, S. Phillips. R: Tori Tucker.

RECORDS – Bullard 30-8. Bryan-Rudder 29-7.

NEXT UP – Bullard vs. Madisonville, regional championship, 3 p.m., Sat. at Johnson Coliseum, Sam Houston State University campus, Huntsville, TX.



(Banner Staff Photo by Doc Smith)

A team effort got them to the finals and after plenty of action shots this team photo befits the season and 'defense-by-committee' earned their regional semi-final win over Bryan-Rudder, 59-51, at the Class 3A Region III tournament. More tournament pictures on page 8.

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