

Millsap High School

Athletic Hall of Fame

Est. 2023



Left to right: Vivian Brown, Kay Young, Melody Campbell – Captain, Becky Free, Darla Finch, Sara Whitling, Debby Pitchford - Captain, Pam Woodruff, Gloria Gilbert, Kerry Mooney, Deeann Aaron, and Jerri Strickland. Criseyda Koonce, Sherry French, Dana Rutledge, Terri Webster and Sandi Strickland. Coaches: Sharon Armstrong-Marr & Kaye Ashby. Manager – Joann Meals

The 1960's and 1970's was a time when the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs basketball were known as a powerhouse on the hardwood. Both boys and girls teams "didn't rebuild, they just reloaded" with upcoming athletes. In the final year of 3-on-3 basketball, the 1978 team was no different as they had height, shooting ability and defensive standouts. Starters for the Lady Bulldogs on offense were: Sr. Deeann Aaron O'Shields, Jr. – Darla Finch and Jr. Kay Young, and on the defensive end were Sr. Captains Debby Pitchford, and Melody Campbell and Sophomore Gloria Gilbert.

The 1978 Lady Bulldogs earned 3rd place at the prestigious 16-team Weatherford College Tournament, reached the semi-finals at the Southwest AAU Invitation Tournament in Duncanville and won the Brock Championship title by one point. Individual awards were earned by Darla Finch and Gloria Gilbert.

Entering district with only 4 losses, the Lady Bulldogs ended district play in a tie with 19-time District Champion, Grandview. The championship game was everything that fans had anticipated as the Lady Bulldogs found themselves in a game that would have a dramatic finish as a last second shot earned Millsap the victory. The win was attributed to several great defensive stances from Melody Campbell, Debby Pitchford and Gloria Gilbert (who led all rebounders with 6) as well as strong offensive play from Post Darla Finch who led all scorers with 23, Kay Young with 18 and Deeann Aaron O'Shields with 11.

The Bulldogs breezed through bi-district defeating China Springs 71-44 once again behind the explosive shooting hand of Darla Finch, who scored 39 points and pulled down 12 rebounds while her defensive teammate, Gloria Gilbert also finished the night with 12 rebounds. Although their 28-6 season ended at the regional semi-final game, these players have a special place in the hearts of Bulldog fans. They will always be remembered as one of the top teams to represent MHS. Darla Finch earned All-Region honors for her outstanding offensive play.

Several players received All-District awards for the season including: Darla Finch, Debby Pitchford, Gloria Gilbert and Kay Young. Other honors included: Darla Finch, All – Region, Gloria Gilbert – Greatest Bulldog/Best Rebounder, Kay Young – Best Freethrow % and Vivian Brown – Most Improved Player.

1978 Girls Basketball Team