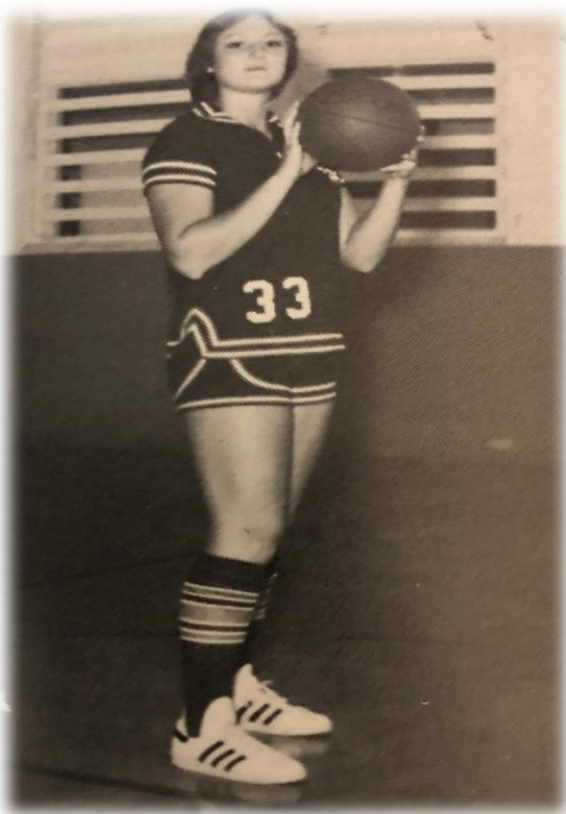


Millsap High School

Athletic Hall of Fame

Est. 2023



Basketball....the sport MHS was known for during the 1960's and 1970's. During this time, Millsap produced numerous outstanding teams and players. Darla Finch is one of those players that fall into this category. When "old-timers" think of Millsap basketball, they put Darla in the category of being in a class by herself as the "best post player" to step onto the hardwood for the Lady Bulldogs.

Darla stepped into the role of starting as a 6'1 ½" freshman post player on the 1976 team that was loaded with upper classman. With height and a great shooting touch, she began her high school basketball career on the 1976 Co-District Champions who finished the season with the best record in Millsap girls basketball history at 29-3. She was inducted into the Inaugural Class of 2023 MHS Athletic Hall of Fame on this team. Her basketball career continued for MHS as she was a 4-year offensive starter and holds the record of most points averaged per game in a season at 30 and most rebounds per game at 12, which she achieved during her junior year.

Finch led her team to the District Championship title in 1978 as they knocked off a 19-time District Champion team. In this particular game, Darla was double-teamed most of the night and still managed to score 25 points. At the bi-district game, Finch scored an amazing 39 points. Known as "Fireball Finch", she averaged a double-double for the 1978 season in points and rebounds. Her season high was against Bridgeport when she lit the net on fire with 41 points.

Darla earned numerous accolades on the 1978 Regional sem-finals team including all-tournament, all-district and all-regional. During her senior year, the Lady Bulldogs would find themselves switching from 6-man basketball to 5-man "full court" basketball. With several key players returning, including Finch, the Lady Bulldogs had high hopes of reaching the state tournament. Finch and her teammates started the season strong at 3-0 defeating defending State Champions, Granbury. But with just three games under their belt, devastation hit the Lady Bulldogs as their leading scorer, Darla, had a season-ending knee injury. Later in the same season, the Lady Bulldogs lost another starter to an injury as well and their hopes of post-season achievements were crushed.

Darla fought back from her injury and went on to play for Weatherford College where she was All-Conference JUCO All-Star. After her JUCO career, Finch played for the TCU Horned Frogs earning 2nd Team All-Conference in the Southwest Conference.

In addition to being successful in basketball, Darla also excelled in Tennis and Track as she earned regional berth in both sports.

Darla retired after 37 years in education as a teacher, coach and administrator. She returned to Millsap ISD where she was the High School Principal. She enjoys spending time with her two sons and two granddaughters.

Darla Finch - 1979 Basketball