

Opening Round

Wildcats No Angels As They Blast Away

The Mulvane High School girls' basketball team opened their own Lady Wildcat Classic with an easy win over an out-matched opponent.

The Wildcats were in control from the opening tip in their first-round game Tuesday night, Jan. 24, rolling to an 83-17 win over Angels Academy, a homeschool program from Wichita. The Angels were added to the field this year after Andale pulled out of the tournament following last year's appearance.

All 11 Wildcats on the tournament roster got plenty of chances for playing time, and 10 of them scored. Three Wildcats were in double figures—Tara Roberts with 19 points, Laura Buchanan with 15, and Josey Gosch with 10. Kristi Parker added nine points off the bench. The Wildcats made 37 field goals in the game, including four three-pointers.

In other first-round games, #2 seed Wichita East rolled past Campus, 62-27, top seed Garden Plain got past Wellington, 63-56, and #5 seed Clearwater edged #4 seed Arkansas City, 34-33.

The Wildcats lost at home to top-ranked Circle Friday night, Jan. 20, by a final count of 62-47. Reaction to that result may depend upon whether the person is a "half-full" or "half-empty" type of person.

Regardless, Mulvane lost despite hanging with Circle, the #1-ranked team in Class 4A, for most of the game. "We played our best game for about three quarters," said Wildcat head coach Dale Landes. "I believe we really out-hustled them until about the 3:00 mark of the third quarter. At that point, Circle started spreading out their offense, and we switched from our zone defense to a man-to-man. In the fourth quarter, we simply put them on the line too much, and they converted their free throws."

Mulvane led the T-Birds 14-13 after one quarter, and the 'Cats only trailed by two points, 28-26, at the intermission. Despite only scoring five points in the third quarter, Mulvane was still within shouting distance after three periods, 38-31.

In the end, like most teams, Mulvane saw too much of Circle's All-State candidates, Valerie Siemens and Bekah Mills. Siemens finished with a game-high 33 points, over half of her team's total, which included a 15-for-17 effort from the line. Mills added 15 points. For the game, the T-Birds were 20-

Lady Wildcat Classic

TONIGHT (JAN. 26)

4:30 p.m. - Campus vs. Wichita Angels Academy
6:15 - Wellington vs. Arkansas City (auxiliary gym)
6:15 - Mulvane vs. Wichita East (main gym)
7:45 - Garden Plain vs. Clearwater

SATURDAY, JAN. 28

2 p.m. - 3rd place game
3:45 - 5th place game
5:30 - 3rd place game
7:30 - Championship game

for 28 from the line to Mulvane's 11 for 24.

"They had Siemens handling the ball a lot in the fourth quarter, as a lot of teams do with their star players late in a game," said Landes. "She just didn't miss from the line. Defensively, we kept their field goal shooting percentage down the whole game. Of course, there was nothing we could do about their free throw shooting."

Mulvane was led by the senior duo of Roberts and Buchanan. Roberts finished with a team-high 18 points while Buchanan added 15. Mulvane also got seven points from Gosch, three points from Megan Turner, and two points apiece from Melinda

McKee and Caitlin Wise.

"On offense, we wanted to either get a quick basket or make Circle work on defense for long periods of time," said Landes. "Unfortunately, we started forcing our shots in the second half, and we weren't as patient with the ball. Still, I'm not going to take anything away for our team's effort. We competed very well against a very good team."

The Mulvane junior varsity also lost at home to Circle, 49-28. Mulvane was 11-for-15 from the free-throw line but only made eight shots from the field, including one three-pointer. The Wildcats got eight points from Emily Stahl, seven from Amanda Hagerman, five from Stephanie Boal, four from Melinda McKee, and two each from Kelecy Sharpe and Kristen Lervik.

The Wildcats will get a much stiffer test in the Lady Wildcat Classic semifinals tonight (Jan. 26). The 'Cats will face #2 seed and defending tournament champion Wichita East. The game is scheduled to get underway at 6:15 p.m. A win would put Mulvane in the championship game Saturday night, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. A loss would put the 'Cats in the third-place game Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Lady Wildcat Classic

FIRST ROUND

Wichita Angels	2	4	7	4-17
Mulvane	23	17	20	23-83

Wichita Angels—Kelsey Rains 8, Brianna Smith 4, Jill Snyder 5. FG 7 (1), FT 2-8.
Mulvane—Amanda Hagerman 6, Megan Turner 7, Katie Ybarra 5, Melinda McKee 6, Caitlin Wise 2, Laura Buchanan 15, Kristi Parker 9, Jordan Martin 4, Josey Gosch 10, Tara Roberts 19. FG 37 (4), FT 5-8.

Wichita East 62, Campus 27
Garden Plain 63, Wellington 56
Clearwater 34, Arkansas City 33

Varsity Girls

Circle	13	15	10	24-62
Mulvane	14	12	5	16-47

Circle—Rosales 2, Bekah Mills 15, Calderera 2, Saenger 8, Valerie Siemens 33, Marsh 2. FG 21 (0), FT 20-28.
Mulvane—Megan Turner 3, Melinda McKee 2, Caitlin Wise 2, Laura Buchanan 15, Josey Gosch 7, Tara Roberts 18. FG 17 (2), FT 11-24.

Junior Varsity Girls

Circle	12	10	18	9-49
Mulvane	6	13	8	1-28

Circle—Nicholas 8, Lara 5, Shepherd 4, Criss 2, Cook 8, Hatfield 8, Warren 4, Peck 9, Conway 1. FG 18 (4), FT 9-16.
Mulvane—Kelecy Sharpe 2, Amanda Hagerman 7, Stephanie Boal 5, Melinda McKee 4, Emily Stahl 8, Kristen Lervik 2. FG 8 (1), FT 11-15.