

5th In Classic

Girls Into First 'Streak'

All season long, Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Dale Landes has been preaching about keeping your poise, staying the course and working hard. If you do, he told his Wildcats, good things will happen.

Some of those "good things" happened last week in the final two rounds of the 25th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic. After losing in the opening game to troublesome Andale, the Cats rebounded with back-to-back victories to take 5th place in the eight-team tournament.

Defensively, the Wildcats put the brakes on Arkansas City's offense Saturday, Jan. 29, and charged to a 47-35 triumph for 5th place. Two nights earlier, the Cats played an exceptional game to topple Campus, 57-42.

Wichita East, in its maiden voyage in the Wildcat Classic, ran off with the tournament

25th Annual Wildcat Girls Classic

5TH PLACE

Mulvane 9 14 15 9 47
Arkansas City 5 9 7 14 35

Mulvane--Tara Roberts 5, Josey Gosch 5, Whitney Becker 8, Abby Sorensen 11, Laura Buchanan 9, Kristi Parker 3, Tasha Parman 3, Amanda Hagerman 2, Keeper Thompson 1. FG 18 (2), FT 9-25, F 18

Arkansas City--Brylee Sturd 8, Stacia Stover 2, Jeal Culbertson 1, Candace Holloway 2, Kashila Young 9, Alexis Johnson 2, Laura Hewitt 4, Natalie Stinson 2, Allison Belindo 1, Kasha Kelly 2. FG 11 (2), FT 11 18, F 20

CHAMPIONSHIP

Wichita East 57, Andale 46

THIRD PLACE

Garden Plain 62, Wellington 55

7TH PLACE

Clearwater 42, Campus 40

SEMIFINALS

Campus 15 12 10 5 42
Mulvane 12 18 12 15 57

Campus--Angelica Ortiz 6, Chelsey Hudgens 4, Amanda Reyes 14, Kendra Riegle 1, Kendra Miller 2, Keri Bosley 4, Chantel Brown 5, Krystal Darbyshire 4, LaTasha Riegle 2. FG 16 (2), FT 8-15, F 24

Mulvane--Abby Sorensen 18, Tara Roberts 8, Whitney Becker 5, Laura Buchanan 6, Josey Gosch 6, Kristi Parker 6, Tasha Parman 4, Megan Turner 4. FG 19 (0), FT 19-29, F 57

Arkansas City 42, Clearwater 32
Andale 53, Wellington 43

Wichita East 57, Garden Plain 52

FIRST ROUND

Andale 67, Mulvane 48
Wellington 46, Campus 40
Wichita East 48, Clearwater 41
Garden Plain 38, Arkansas City 25

championship, beating Andale, 57-46. In the third place game, Garden Plain clipped Wellington, 62-55, and Clearwater edged Campus in the closest game of the entire tournament, 42-40, to claim 7th place.

"I thought we played extremely well defensively against Arkansas City," said Coach Dale Landes. "We defended well. Our only drawback was we didn't do a very good job on the boards and that led to a lot of easy second-chance shots for them. We were very fortunate that they didn't make a lot of second-chance points. They could have."

The Wildcats had a big second and third quarter, which helped. The Cats out-scored the Bulldogs, who are once again being coached by former Mulvane High School girls coach Bill Stinson, 29-16, and that ended up being the decisive part of the contest

The Bulldogs gained some ground in the last quarter but the mountain was too tall to climb by that time and the Cats were well on their way to their first back-to-back wins of the season

"In those two quarters, we executed the offense, which led to some really good looks at the basket," said Landes. "That led to some nice scoring inside by Josey Gosch, Laura Buchanan and Whitney Becker. Mainly, though, in those two quarters, we just took advantage of their turnovers. They had quite a few in the 2nd and 3rd quarters and most of them were really unforced errors."

Senior guard Abby Sorensen was on top of the Mulvane scoring chart with 11 points but had plenty of help from Buchanan with nine points, Becker with eight and both Gosch and Tara Roberts with five apiece.

"We were just the better team," stressed Landes. "As long as we executed on offense, we were the better team. I thought going in that we just had more weapons than Ark City did. They have also had trouble scoring this year. That's one reason I felt our defense could shut them down."

Landes was proven right. The Wildcats kept their charge on into the third quarter. When the lead climbed to 18 points, Landes tried a smaller, quicker line-up. "I just did a little experimenting, kind of looking toward the future. I wanted to see how much trou-

ble we could create defensively and that line-up did a pretty good job. We just didn't have the offensive punch in there."

The game wasn't without its dark side, though. There always seems to be a dark side. The Wildcats just couldn't down their free throws! The MHS girls were 9-for-25 at the stripe. Any other game, that would have doomed the effort to defeat.

"It was definitely an off night," said Landes. "We had been making our free throws but that was poor. You go in and Abby's hitting over 80% at the line but comes out 1-for-4. We had been doing some real good things at the stripe. I'm hoping it was just a minor setback."

Thursday night, Jan. 27, in the semifinal win over the Colts, Mulvane started slowly, then came on strong, out-scoring Campus in each of the last three quarters. Mulvane pulled away in the 4th period by out-scoring the Colts, 15-5, after their point guard fouled out of the game. Overall, it was one of Mulvane's better games.

"We were hitting on all cylinders, I thought," pointed out Landes. "We wanted our post people to come out and really have an impact on the game because we felt like we had a little bigger line-up than Campus did. We took advantage of that, too, between Josey, Tasha (Parman), Kristi (Parker) and Laura, we got 22 points."

And Sorensen had a fantastic game, too. She "generalled" the court and scored 18 points to boot. Roberts scored eight points, Buchanan, Gosch and Parker had six each, Becker hit for five and Megan Turner and Parman had four each.

"Abby really keyed our offense," said Landes. "She did a good job of penetrating and finishing but also hitting the perimeter shots. Becker did a tremendous defensive job on their top player, not allowing her to get into the flow of the game."

Campus came out hot and took the early lead but the Cats grabbed the momentum as Sorensen heated up and broke down the Colt defense with her penetration. Mulvane out-scored the Colts, 18-12, to take a 30-27 lead at intermission and they were on their way to a second straight victory.

Can they make it three in a row? That's the big question Friday night, Feb. 4, when Clearwater comes to town. The Indians and Cats will tangle at about 6 p.m.

Tournament Honors For Cat Guard

Mulvane senior guard Abby Sorensen was one of 10 girls named to the all-tournament team Saturday, Jan. 29, at the conclusion of the 25th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic.

Additionally, she became the second MHS player in a row to be named to the C.V. Hartung Award for sportsmanship, hustle and hard work in the tournament. Last year, senior Shayna Duncan of Mulvane was the first Cat to win the Hartung Award.

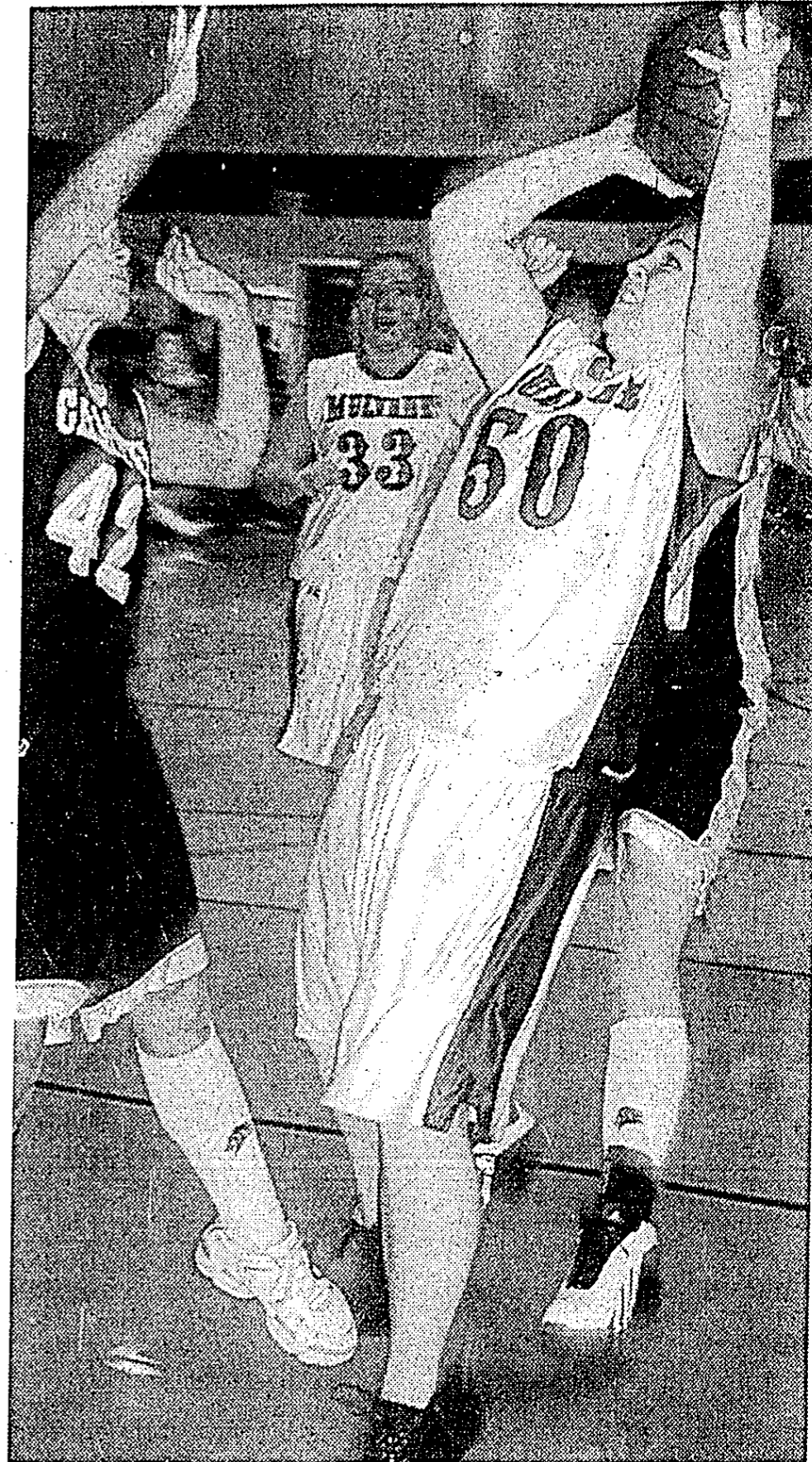
Joining Sorensen on the all-tournament team were Tarita Gordon and Christine Elliott of Wichita East, Michelle Mitchell of Garden Plain, Justine Prange and Jessica Martin of Andale, Amanda Reyes of Campus, Lindsay Davis of Wellington, Natalie Stinson of Arkansas City and Kristi Love of Clearwater.

For the first time ever, two freshmen made the all tournament team—Stinson and Elliott. Gordon is a sophomore, Mitchell is a junior and the other all-tourney selections are seniors.

Wichita East won the championship in its first year in the tournament by nosing out Andale, 57-46. Wellington won the Sportsmanship Award and the Coaches Award went to Nicole Eitzmann of Campus.

Wildcat Girls Classic All-Tournament Team

Player, School	Ht.	Yr.
Tarita Gordon, Wichita East	5-5	Soph
Abby Sorensen, Mulvane	5-2	Sr.
Lindsay Davis, Wellington	5-9	Sr.
Christine Elliott, Wichita East	5-11	Fr.
Justine Prange, Andale	5-3	Sr.
Michelle Mitchell, Garden Plain	5-7	Jr.
Amanda Reyes, Campus	5-7	Sr.
Jessica Martin, Andale	5-9	Sr.
Kristi Love, Clearwater	5-5	Sr.
Natalie Stinson, Ark. City	5-7	Fr.



Mulvane's Tara Roberts (50) gets off a jumper against Campus in semifinal win