

Cats Hit Jackpot, Take Tourney Gold

For the second time this year, Mulvane High School and Pratt squared off for the jackpot in a tournament and the Wildcats drew three aces.

In almost a carbon copy of a victory over the Greenbacks in the Maize Tournament in December, Coach Charlie Mason's Cats surged to the lead in the second half and came away with the Roadrunner Classic championship Saturday night, Jan. 28, at Chaparral High School.

Making six free throws in eight attempts in the final quarter, the Wildcats clipped Pratt, 54-47, for the Roadrunner title. More than a month earlier, Mulvane trimmed the Greenbacks, 54-47, for the Maize Tournament crown.

"We're pretty excited about the win but we're more excited about taking home the Sportsmanship Award and three kids on the all-tournament team," said Mason. "I think if they would have had to choose a 'MVP,' it would have been a tough decision between (Kevin) Bell and (Lonny) Travis.

"All in all, it was a good tournament," added Mason, whose outfit boosted its record to 11-2 with three Classic victories. "We had to beat some tough teams and we had to beat two teams we already had beaten in the Maize Tournament. The kids really responded."

Mason said the Cats used the same philosophy which lead to their December victory. "We came out trying to do the same things," said Mason. "We tried to pressure them full court. We felt their guards were a little weak (in ballhandling) and also Pratt was playing three nights in a row and they were coming off a very emotional game the night before with Nickerson."

So the pressure defense--full and half-court--which has come to be the MHS trademark this season was fully

felt and the Greenbacks suffered 18 turnovers.

"We wanted to play good defense and we did," admitted Mason. "We wanted to have somebody in their face all the time because they are good shooters. I thought Ronnie Rabe and J.C. Shook did a super job on their top scorer, Piper. They just wore him down. I know several times, it took Pratt more than a minute to find out where to put the ball."

The Wildcats, posting their fourth straight victory and jumping back into the top five Class 4A rankings in the Wichita Eagle, raked in the jackpot with three aces--seniors Kevin Bell and Todd Travis and junior Lonny Travis, all three making the tournament team.

In the finale, L. Travis canned 19 points, Bell had 13 and the senior Travis added 10. The only other Cat scoring

came from slick guard David Belew, scored 12 points.

Mulvane controlled the game in the first half until the final seconds when Pratt rolled in a three-point play to snap a 20-20 tie. However, Belew scored on a layup off the second-half tip, then stole the ball and got another layup to put Mulvane on top for good. "We wanted to come out in the first three minutes of the second half and establish ourselves," said Mason. "I think we scored eight of the first 12 points of the second half."

Another key factor was the 6-for-8 free throwing down the stretch. "That was the difference," pointed out Mason. "They had to foul us in order to catch up and we needed to respond. They fouled the people we had to have them foul and they responded." And it also didn't hurt that the Wildcats made 53% from the field (24 of 45).

With only a 50-46 lead with 55 seconds left, Belew made two from the stripe and 20 seconds left after L. Travis forced a turnover, Travis then made a pair for some breathing room.

The Cats marched into the finals with a 59-47 verdict over Clearwater in the semifinals and Mulvane bombed winless Kingman, 59-44, in the first round.

Nickerson won third place by sinking Clearwater, 100-70. Against Clearwater, L. Travis and Belew teamed up for 34 points and Bell added 15.

In the opening game, Bell and T. Travis led the way with 17 and 16 points, respectively, taking up the slack for Belew, who was benched one game for breaking training rules. L. Travis also had a double-figure game with 13 points.

The Wildcats will jump back into the Chisholm Trail League chase at Goddard Friday night, Feb. 3, needing to put together five loop victories to get back in the chase for No. 1.

ROADRUNNER CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Pratt 9 14 12 12--47
Mulvane 12 8 20 14--54
Pratt--J.C. Keesee 10, Ty Piper 12, Tom Becker 11, Jeff Jochems 2, Steve Blankenship 12 FG 19-40, FT 9-13, F 10.

Mulvane--Lonny Travis 19, David Belew 12, Kevin Bell 13, Todd Travis 10, J.C. Shook 0. FG 24-45, FT 6-10, F 8.

Third Place

Nickerson 100, Clearwater 70

Consolation Championship

Chaparral 70, Wellington 57

Seventh Place

Arkansas City 49, Kingman 46

SEMIFINALS

Clearwater 20 11 5 11--47

Mulvane 10 19 16 14--59

Clearwater--Tim Davis 7, Jeff Vulgamore 14, Brian Hickman 9, Phil Hamill 6, Ruel Williamson 6, Jeff Ramsey 3, Glenn Rink 2. FG 21-36, FT 5-9, F 13.

Mulvane--Lonny Travis 17, David Belew 17, Ronnie Rabe 1, Kevin Bell 15, J.C. Shook 7, Todd Travis 2. FG 25-60, FT 9-14, F 8.

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 8 22 16 15--59

Kingman 5 10 13 16--44

Mulvane--Lonny Travis 13, Ronnie Rabe 2, Kevin Bell 17, Greg Ougley 2, J.C. Shook 2, Mike Rayl 2, Todd Travis 16. FG 25-51, FT 9-15, F 8.

Kingman--Kelly Hanson 4, Scott Ward 7, Mike Maloney 2, Jason Young 7, Linn Zerger 8, Doug Gaumer 4, Ron Best 12. FG 20-54, FT 4-9, F 15.



Wildcat team members huddle around the first-place trophy at Chaparral

Travis Brothers, Bell Make All-Tournament Team

Mulvane made a clean sweep of things in the 13th annual Roadrunner Classic Saturday night, Jan. 28, at Chaparral High School.

Not only did the MHS Wildcat cagers take first place in the tournament, but three Cats were named to the All-Tournament Team named by the coaches and officials. And Mulvane High School also won the Sportsmanship Award, which was presented to the school's cheerleaders.

Junior Lonny Travis, Mulvane's top scorer, led the Mulvane trio on the all-tourney team, and he was joined on the top 10 by senior guard Kevin Bell and senior Todd Travis.

Lonny led the Wildcats to their second tournament title this season (both times beating Pratt) with 49 points. Bell was the No. 2 Cat scorer with 45 points and Todd scored 28 points.

Others named to the elite squad were J.C. Keesee and Ty Piper of Pratt, Scott Ward of Kingman, John Howie of Chaparral, Brian Hickman of Clearwater and Chris Stange and Marty Gitchell, who paced Nickerson to third place.

The tournament's No. 1 scorer was Stange with 61 points and Wellington's Jesse Ybarra was second, scoring 57 points.

The Mulvane cheering squad also received pendants for leading the "No. 1 sports" and showing the most enthusiasm. Members of the squad include Lori Meek, Shelly Seimears, Leah Canady, Dixie Wilson, Sharon Timmons, Carla Myers and Carolyn Burris, head cheerleader.

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	5	0	10	3
Mulvane	3	2	11	2
Valley Center	3	2	9	4
Goddard	3	2	5	8
Wellington	0	4	1	10
Augusta	0	4	0	13

DIVISION II

Haven	4	1	10	4
Maize	4	1	10	4
Circle	3	1	10	3
Clearwater	3	1	8	5
Andover	3	1	7	6
Chaparral	1	2	4	10
Andale	1	3	5	9
Kingman	0	3	1	12
Rose Hill	0	6	4	11